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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

NATION



Today's kids can't keep up with their parents, according to a new study.

► PAGE 17

WORLD



Suicide bombers strike the Iranian Embassy, killing 23 people.

► PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE



People has named Adam Levine the "sexiest man alive" of 2013.

► PAGE 21

Suspended lawyer pleads guilty in domestic violence case. **PAGE 6**
Farmer with \$650 monthly wage is denied CW visa. **PAGE 7**

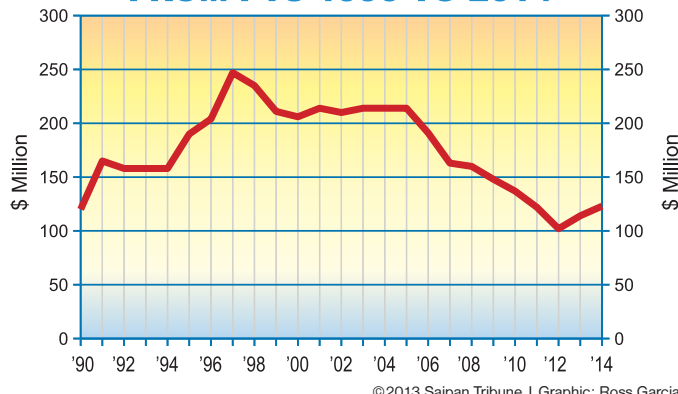
Up to \$2M excess revenue no match for growing obligations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» CNMI yet to see fruits of major revenue-generating bills in 18th Legislature

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the government collected between \$1 million and \$2 million more than the \$114 million projected in fiscal year 2013, but the gain is too small compared to the estimated \$19 million needed "on top of" the \$123 million already budgeted for fiscal year 2014. Also, the CNMI has yet to see the fruits of revenue-generating bills pending or passed since the 18th Legislature took office.

CNMI GOVERNMENT BUDGET FROM FYS 1990 TO 2014



©2013 Saipan Tribune | Graphic: Ross Garcia

Moreover, the fiscal year 2014 budget of \$123 million is still among the lowest levels in a 25-year period in the CNMI.

The excess revenue of "\$1 million to \$2 million" in 2013 is still based on preliminary figures, which were earlier placed at up to \$5 million.

"Preliminary figures show that we basically collected just a little more than the estimates," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*

at yesterday's opening of the three-day Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs' Conference.

Fiscal year 2013 ended on Sept. 30. The administration has yet to release a financial report to the Legislature.

"The excess revenue, we have to match it up, that's why we're going through an audit. There might be some overruns in other expendi-

See **EXCESS** on **Page 4**



Fire chiefs' conference kicks off

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

U.S. Fire Administration's Ernest Mitchell Jr. smiles as he gets symbolic gifts from the CNMI government and the Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs during the kickoff yesterday of the three-day annual WPIAFC Conference at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall. Also in the photo are, from left, WPIAFC president Stanley Torres Jr., Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider, Senate President Ralph Torres, and Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose Lifofoi.

The three-day 2nd Annual Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs Conference kicked off yesterday morning at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall, with U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell Jr. serving as the keynote speaker.

Mitchell talked about firefighters' safety, about what the U.S. Fire Administration is doing, things that they have been

See **FIRE** on **Page 4**

Signs of life amid misery reveal Filipinos' spirit

TODD PITMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP)—They found the hoop in the ruins of their obliterated neighborhood. They propped up the backboard with broken wood beams and rusty nails scavenged from vast mounds of storm-blasted homes.

A crowd gathered around.

And on one of the few stretches of road here that wasn't overflowing with debris, they played basketball.

I didn't know what to think at first when I stumbled upon six teenagers shooting hoops over the weekend in a wrecked neighborhood of Tacloban, a city that Typhoon Haiyan reduced to rubble, bodies and

See **SIGNS** on **Page 4**

RELATED NEWS

► Tan Holdings, CTSI, TSL Foundation raise \$53K for Haiyan victims.

PAGE 5

► PSS spearheads 'dollar drive' for Haiyan victims.

PAGE 6

► UniFil, TMLC tag-team for Yolanda relief effort.

PAGE 9

AP
In this Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013 photo, Typhoon Haiyan survivors play basketball in a destroyed neighborhood in Tacloban, Philippines.



MARK THIS DATE ... NOVEMBER 23, 2013

IT&E and the American Red Cross will be sponsoring a Donation Drive for the Victims of Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines. Stop by the IT&E Tent in front of the Marianas Business Plaza from 8am - 4pm.

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Men's Open Singles

Champion: **Luke Beling**
Runner-up: **Jeff Race**
Third place: **Moris Villanueva**

Men's Open Doubles

Champions: **Jeff Race & Luke Beling**
Runners-up: **Tommy Choi & Amami Sakano**

Men's 4.0 Singles

Champion: **Michael Ren**
Runner-up: **Luther Lizama**
Third place: **Steven Beyer**

Men's 4.0 Doubles

Champions: **Eun Jang & George Lai**
Runners-up: **Eddie Wu & Sam Lai**

Men's 3.0 Singles

Champion: **Vincent Tudela**
Runner-up: **Romulo Pandoro**
Third place: **Jaime Hagos**

Men's 3.0 Doubles

Champions: **Robbie Schorr & JR Jacinto**
Runners-up: **Alberto Ventura & K. Shintani**

Men's Over 40 Singles

Champion: **Gary Ramsey**
Runner-up: **Fr. Ryan Jimenez**

Men's Over 40 Doubles

Champions: **David & Sam Lai**
Runners-up: **Jorge Olanda & Buboy Sergio**
Third place: **Ken Imapa & Gary Ramsey**

Women's Open Singles

Champion: **Thea Minor**
Runner-up: **Mikayla Lopez**
Third place: **Carol Lee**

Women's Open Doubles

Champions: **Michelle Phan & Carol Lee**
Runners-up: **Negahr Rastguay & Mikayla Lopez**

Women's 4.0 Singles

Champion: **Theecl Minor**
Runner-up: **Julia Ishikawa**

Women's Over 40 Doubles

Champions: **Lydia Tan & Sally Lee**
Runners-up: **Joy Minor & Letty Jones**

Women's 3.0 Singles

Champion: **Malika Miyawaki**
Runner-up: **Tania Tan**
Third place: **Conatsu Kaga**

Women's 3.0 Doubles

Champions: **Malika Miyawaki & Julia Ishikawa**
Runners-up: **Tania Tan & Grace Choi**
Third place: **Antonia Reyes & Caitlin Tinney**

Mixed Open Doubles

Champions: **Thea Minor & Luke Beling**
Runners-up: **Michelle Pang & Benson Au-Yeung**

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Champions: **Ken Imapa & Theecl Minor**
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Champions: **Conatsu Kaga & Reo Arriola**
Runners-up: **A. Wu & K. Shintani**
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Runners-up: **Marivic Rosario & Don Dunlop**
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Local

CHC needs 25 more nurses to cover all areas, services

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center currently suffers from a shortage of nurses, with 25 positions that need to be filled as soon as possible, according to nursing director Leticia Reyes.

Reyes is optimistic, however, that they will be able to hire the needed personnel soon.

To date, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has 167 full-time nurses at the hospital and at the health centers on Tinian and Rota. By Dec. 5, that number is expected to drop as two more nurses are expected to leave.

At CHC alone, there are 112 registered nurses, 21 licensed practical nurses, and 23 nursing assistants/nursing aids.

For this fiscal year, Reyes has recommended 190 FTEs for her department. This is an increase over the 168 FTEs approved two fiscal years ago. That lack of nurses caused a significant increase in the corporation's overhead. She disclosed that monthly overtime pay just for the nursing department averaged more than 2,000 hours and growing.

Reyes described the nursing population at CHC as "fluctuat-

ing" between 160 and 167 in a given month.

"Our recommendation is 190 FTEs for the nursing department because that's what we need in order to properly cover all critical sections and units. With only 165 FTEs onboard right now, we are short of 25 more nurses that we need to hire as soon as possible," said Reyes.

Most nurses in the CNMI are nonresident workers who continue to work under a CW visa (contract worker visa). Reyes disclosed that the corporation is in communication with the U.S. Center for Immigration Services on how these foreign recruits can be hired on an H1B visa. Due to new federal immigration policies in the CNMI, nonresident workers—such as nurses—may potentially be repatriated in 2014 if the CW visa program is not extended.

Through the USCIS-approved CW visa, a foreign worker is only permitted to work for a year and thereafter have to be renewed. For the nursing director, "securing" and "stabilizing" the nursing hires from outside the Commonwealth would help stabilize the public hospital in terms of its need for nurses.

Saipan Tribune was told that majority of nurses at CHC are registered nurses from the Philippines.

"RNs on island are very, very limited. We have to find ways in order to get more 'seasoned' nurses for our hospital," said Reyes, describing RNs as seasoned nurses who possess the experience and expertise for the job. NAs, meantime, are those who possess basic nursing skills.

When asked what's the corporation's contingency plan in the event the much-needed seasoned nurses are not found, Reyes said they have to continue cross training personnel to enhance their skills and capabilities.

"We're starting to 'mold' them to become seasoned nurses by conducting rigorous cross trainings. This way, they can be used in areas where they are needed most like ICU, Labor and Delivery, and others. I know this will take a while but we're hopeful for its positive result," said Reyes.

At present, the corporation has yet to begin its recruitment in the Philippines as it has yet to finalize an agreement with the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency. But as soon as this is done, Reyes is confident that CHCC could tap the Philippines for its hiring needs.

The corporation's nursing workforce used to number more than 200.

SOLICITATION TO SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Recently a motion was filed to reopen Civil Case No. CV-01-0031, *DOE I, et al., v. THE GAP, INC., et al.*, which was granted and Timothy H. Bellas, has been appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to distribute certain residual funds which were previously held in trust for a contingent liability that never required payment.

Therefore, a residual amount of money exists which, by the terms of the Settlement Agreement in the above entitled case, is to be donated to charity.

As a result, all non-profit organizations, who qualify for charitable status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c), are asked to submit a request for a donation from this Residual Fund. Preference will be given to organizations whose charitable services are available to all members of the CNMI Community.

At a minimum, requests should state: 1) the amount requested; 2) describe what type of charitable activity the organization is involved in and 3) how any funds which may be donated to the organization would be used. Requests from organizations who are not well known as charitable, should also submit evidence of their 501(c) status.

Please send all donation requests to:

Timothy H. Bellas
P.O. Box 502845
Saipan, MP 96950

All requests must be in writing and received no later than December 13, 2013 in order to be considered.

The decision to donate and the amount of such donations are entirely discretionary. This solicitation shall create no rights or obligations in or to any third party. However, a proposed list of donations will be submitted to and is subject to the final approval by the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Timothy H. Bellas

DESPITE RATE RELIEF FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PSS retains limited AC use, conservation measures

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

CUC proposes policy on net metering

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission is expected to hear next month not only the utility rate adjustments endorsed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. but also the agency's proposed policy on net metering.

CUC filed Monday, Nov. 18, its proposed rules and regulations pertaining to the interconnections with CUC's distribution system and net metering transactions. This recommended policy was approved by CUC in February 2012 but was not approved by the CPUC for implementation. It was learned that the regulations would become effective only upon an order from the commission.

The proposed regulation has been published in the *Commonwealth Register* and went through a comment period. It was formally approved and endorsed on Feb. 28, 2012, by then CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae and former attorney general Edward Buckingham.

Once approved by CPUC, the regulation will provide that CUC's customers using environmentally friendly methods of generating electricity such as renewable power shall be entitled to 100 percent power bill offset in their billing. Plus, they are provided 50 percent retail credits and payments when the electricity is delivered to CUC's electric system. The duties and

The recent passage of a law that eases the utility costs of the Public School System does not

rights of these customers are outlined in the proposed policy.

The proposal, if approved, is applicable to generating capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts. Above this capacity will be subjected to special conditions and interconnection standards.

Based on the proposed "net energy metering interconnection agreement" filed with the commission, it states that CUC shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed by the customer during each billing period by measuring the difference between the electricity that CUC delivered to the eligible customer.

For each contract year, any remaining unused kilowatt-hour credit accumulated by the customer during the previous 12 months shall be fully compensated at a rate that will not exceed 50 percent of the fuel component cost required to produce the same power from fossil fuel.

mean the system will lift the conservation measures it has been enforcing across the board, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the system needs to continue implementing its energy conservation plan as its budget this fiscal year remains inadequate.

Sablan pointed out that PSS had asked for \$40 million this fiscal year but the Legislature gave it only \$33 million for the next 12 months.

"The energy conservation is something that needs to be implemented because we're still in a situation where we didn't get the kind of money we requested from the Legislature, which is \$40 million

and we're still short of that amount," she explained.

This means all students and personnel are expected to participate in the energy conservation efforts to help reduce energy consumption and other operating expenses. One of these is the limited use of air-conditioning units for only up to four hours each day, giving teachers flexibility on when is the best schedule to do so.

Public Law 18-19 was enacted in September this year to provide relief to PSS by reclassifying its water and wastewater rates from government to commercial, thereby reducing its water and wastewater charges.

From \$44.30 per 1,000 to 3,000 gallons of water, PSS will

now be charged 72 cents per 1,000 to 3,000 gallons—a 98.4 percent reduction.

Its wastewater rate also went down from \$68 per 1,000 gallons to \$3 for 1,000 to 6,000 gallons—a reduction of 95.6 percent.

This rate relief law is expected to give PSS some \$2 million in savings, reducing the public schools' water and wastewater rates to \$2.5 million yearly, compared to the current billing of \$4.5 million annually.

However, Sablan is still worried that CUC may propose to increase its rates in the months ahead.

"What kind of cost savings [can we generate] if rates will go up?" she asked.

Sablan said that PSS has to maintain its resourcefulness and be mindful of how it spend its funds. She emphasized the importance of forecasting in order to see where its funds are and where it will take the system in the next three to five years.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC is still awaiting guidance from the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on how the rate relief law will be implemented. The law, according to CUC officials, is estimated to have a rate impact of about \$1.7 million on the utilities corporation.

Also, under P.L. 18-19, any late fees or penalties that have been assessed against PSS shall be waived for fiscal year 2013.



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SIGNS

From Page 1

uprooted trees when it slammed into the Philippines Nov. 8.

As a foreign correspondent working in the middle of a horrendous disaster zone, I didn't expect to see people having a good time—or asking me to play ball. I was even more stunned when I learned that the basketball goal was one of the first things this neighborhood rebuilt.

It took a moment for me to realize that it made all the sense in the world.

The kids wanted to play so they can take their minds off what happened, said Elanie Saranillo, one of the spectators. "And we want to watch so we, too, can forget."

Saranillo, 22, now lives in a church after her own home was leveled by the storm.

Countless families lost loved ones to the typhoon, which killed more than 4,000 people.

Hundreds of thousands of survivors have endured unimaginable suffering: hunger, thirst, makeshift shelter, little if any medical care, and a desperate, dayslong wait for aid to arrive. Tacloban was filled with hopeless, fear-filled faces. Even now, blackened bodies with peeling skin still lay by the roads, or are trapped under the rubble.

But as the crisis eases and aid begins to flow, hope is flickering. People smile, if only briefly, and joke, if only in passing. They are snippets of life. They do not mean, by any stretch, that people are happy in the face of tragedy. But for some, there is a newfound enthusiasm for life that comes from having just escaped death.

When a kid with mismatched shoes rolled the grimy, orange-and-yellow basketball my way, I was encouraged to attempt a slam dunk. I opted for free throws instead, and miraculously sank the first two, to immense cheers all around.

My third shot hit the rim, circled twice and rolled the wrong way. The crowd roared a sympathetic "Awwwwwwwwww." There were a lot of laughs.

In Saranillo's neighborhood, I saw four giggling children jumping up and down on two soiled mattresses strung across a cobweb of smashed wooden beams that had once formed somebody's home. Two women stood on a hilltop high above, dancing.

A few yards (meters) away, a 21-year-old named Mark Cuayzon strummed a guitar. He too, was smiling. And in this city virtually erased by nature, I had to ask why.

"I'm sad about Tacloban," he said. "But I'm happy because I'm still alive. I survived. I lost my house, but I didn't lose my family."

I covered the aftermath of the 2011 tsunami in Japan, and cannot recall a single laugh. Every nation is resilient in its own way, but there is something different in the Philippines that I

have not yet put my finger on.

While walking through Tacloban's ruins, I and my colleagues were almost always greeted by kind words. When I asked how people were doing, people who had lost everything said, "Good." Superficial words, of course, but combined with the smiles, and with hearing "Hey, Joe" again and again (an old World War II reference to G.I. Joe), they helped form a picture I have not encountered in other disaster zones.

Perhaps it has something to do with an expression Filipinos have: "*Bahala na.*" It essentially means: Whatever happens, leave it to God.

Elizabeth Protacio de Castro, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Philippines in Manila, said her nation has grown accustomed to catastrophe. Some 20 typhoons barrel across the nation every year. Add to that earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, armed insurgencies and political upheaval.

"Dealing with disaster has become an art," de Castro said. But Typhoon Haiyan "was quite different. It was immense, and no amount of preparation could have prepared us to cope with it."

And yet, they must cope.

"So rather than screaming or staring at the wall in a psychiatric ward, you do everything you can. You do your best, then let it go," said de Castro, who helped provide psychological aid to victims of the 2004 Asia tsunami during a previous job with the U.N. Children's Fund.

People playing music or sports in the rubble, de Castro said, "is a way of saying, 'Life goes on.' This is what they used to do every day, and they're going to keep doing it."

"It's not that Filipinos are some happy-go-lucky people and don't care," she added. "It's a normal reaction to an abnormal situation. They're saying: 'I can deal with this. I'm at peace, and whatever happens tomorrow, happens.' ... They need help, of course, but they're also saying, they're going to get by on their own if they have to."

De Castro has been counseling students in Manila who lost parents and siblings to the storm, and said some have displayed incredible determination. "They've lost their entire families, and they're telling me, 'I have to finish my studies because my parents paid my tuition through the end of the year.'"

That sense of determination

is literally written in the ruins of Tacloban.

One handwritten message painted on a board outside a destroyed shop said the "eyes of the world" are on the city. It added, "Don't quit."

Those who have gotten a chance to leave Tacloban have done so, of course, though many will no doubt return one day.

On Monday, I rode on a U.S. Air Force C-17 out of Tacloban to Manila, along with about 500 people displaced by the typhoon. There were babies and pregnant women. Some had tears in their eyes. One man held a doll with stuffed animal-like angel wings. He stared at it intensely, kissing it over and over.

As the plane neared Manila, an American crew member held her iPhone to her helmet's microphone, which was linked the aircraft's speaker system.

She hit play, and Earth, Wind and Fire's 1978 hit "September" belted out. The sea of eyes squatting on the cargo plane immediately turned radiant.

Men twirled their arms. Women swayed back and forth, and the words echoed through the plane's cargo hold:

*"Do you remember ...
While chasing the clouds away,
Our hearts were ringing,
In the key that our souls were singing.
As we danced in the night.
Remember,
How the stars stole the night away."*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Judges needed for Thespian competition

It is time for another Thespian competition! Please RSVP jlwahaz@att.net if you are able to come judge

some of the island's talented young people this Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013, at 1pm. The competition is being held at Grace Christian Academy on Navy Hill. (PR)

Free business workshop

The CNMI Small Business Development Center presents the free workshop called "Start and Added Value Product" on Nov. 29, 2013, from 10am-

12pm, at the Commonwealth Development Authority Bldg., first floor, San Jose. Please call for pre-registration (670) 664-3018, or visit www.pacificsbdc.com. (PR)

EXCESS

From Page 1

tures; all those will be made up by that essentially. But in the end, if there's net excess that basically goes into deficit reduction," Inos added.

But while the revenues are starting to grow, so does the government's obligations, including meeting the provisions of a Retirement Fund global settlement agreement.

This means besides the \$123 million projected revenues to operate the government in fiscal year 2014, the government also has to generate \$12 million to \$14 million more to include the Fund settlement deal and group health and life insurance program.

Inos said that continued expenditure control is needed "regardless of the level of increase in revenue."

After all, he said, there's nowhere to cut so what is needed is new and additional sources of revenues to meet the government's obligations.

One of those recent cuts is ensuring that autonomous government agencies' chiefs receive not more than \$70,000 in annual salary, although the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is exempted, he said.

"They're in compliance now," the governor added.

Frustration

"I was hoping that by now we've already passed other major revenue generating bills, given that we have a lot of obligations to meet," House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan)

separately said yesterday.

Sablan said electronic gaming, in his view, has one of the largest potentials to generate new income for the government but the conference committee report-amended electronic gaming bill has yet to pass the Senate.

While the 18th Legislature had already passed a video lottery bill that is now law, a request for proposals has yet to be issued by the Inos administration.

Moreover, a Saipan casino legalization bill has long been pending in the Senate.

House members said the Senate should decide on the casino bill's fate soon, so that lawmakers can move on and look for others ways to generate revenue that do not necessarily include tax increases.

Sablan said given the number of times the Inos administration held a joint leadership meeting with the House and Senate, "you would think that by now we're already moving on a lot of revenue generating bills."

But Sablan said it takes time to see the results of major revenue-generating bills; just the same, he said the bills are supposed to be at least in place.

"So that we could add these projected revenues while formulating the fiscal year 2015 budget. We could do a lot more if only we pursue the things we said we're going to do," Sablan said.

Another of Sablan's revenue-generating bills, a tax amnesty measure, is still awaiting the governor's signature.

Millions in back taxes that could otherwise remain uncollected are expected to flow into the government's coffer once

the bill becomes law.

Not all revenue-generating measures are held up in the Senate, however, as legislative initiatives that also have potential to generate millions are still in the House, including one that extends the CNMI's maximum 40-year lease term on public lands to 99 years.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said this initiative could be acted on at the next session, which is set for Friday.

The 18th House of Representatives has already made history by successfully impeaching former governor Benigno R. Fitial early this year for corruption, neglect of duty, and commission of felony.

Voters in the 2012 elections thumbed down most of Fitial's supporters, paving the way for lawmakers not aligned with Fitial to gain the majority in the House and pass a second historic impeachment resolution. Fitial stepped down on Feb. 20, days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

25-year annual revenue

Months after removing the former governor from office, the 18th Legislature still has a lot of tasks ahead, including finding ways to generate revenue.

The CNMI budget went up to \$123.4 million in fiscal year 2014, from \$114 million in fiscal 2013 and \$102 million in fiscal 2012 because of improving tourism arrivals.

Fiscal year 2013 is from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013, while fiscal year 2014 is from Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2015.

But in a 25-year period, the fiscal year 2014 budget is still

among the lowest budget the CNMI has ever had.

It is better only than the budget of four fiscal years: 1990's \$120 million, 2011's \$122 million, 2012's \$102 million, and 2013's \$114 million.

Previous budgets were anywhere between \$137 million and \$247 million, based on data from the Office of Management and Budget on Capital Hill.

The peak of \$247 million in fiscal year 1997 was when the CNMI's tourism and garment manufacturing industries were both driving the CNMI's economic engine.

Because of factors, mainly those outside of CNMI's control such as the Asian economic crisis and the pullout of garment factories because of changes in world trade rules, the annual government revenue started dropping after fiscal year 1997. With tourism as the only economic engine, the CNMI has struggled for years until the arrivals started improving once again in the last two years.

But the government has more obligations. For fiscal year 2014, the government needs to pay \$25 million to the Retirement Fund global settlement deal. This is \$5 million more than the \$20 million that's already appropriated for the Fund this year.

Besides the \$5 million, the government also needs to find \$7 million to \$9 million more in group health and life insurance plan payments, bringing to \$12 million to \$14 million the amount that must be generated in fiscal year 2014, in addition to the \$123 million in projected general fund for all other government programs and services.

FIRE

From Page 1

working on, and some current projects, among other things.

Mitchell underscored the need for the fire chiefs to build trust to get an effective team.

In an interview with reporters, he advised fire chiefs and firefighters to be aware of the real dangers of fire when they get to the scene.

"You need to be what we call a size-up, an assessment of the risk," he said.

Mitchell said there are times when a firefighter can prevent a line-of-duty death. "That takes a lot of training, takes a lot of equipment and it takes a lot of attitude."

Mitchell is encouraging conference participants to pay attention to the forum and spread the principles that they will learn to the people that they manage and they work with.

Western Fire Chiefs Association president Mark Wendelsdorf said they need to focus on fire prevention "whether it be residential sprinklers, smoke detectors, or working to educate the public in making everybody aware of how we could be fire safe."

"We have to work together to serve the public that we protect," he urged fire chiefs.

In his opening remarks, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the conference provides fire chiefs with an opportunity to harness regional

networking and cooperation.

"I encourage all of you to make the most of this meeting to learn from each other and address our regional challenges and opportunities together," Inos said.

The governor said he is pleased to see that there is a strong and collaborative regional network for the fire chiefs to share ideas and visions.

"I am certainly looking forward to the networking and technical assistance that will come from this year's meeting to meet the challenges we face from a regional and global perspective," he said.

Inos said the efficiency of fire departments is expected to further advance with the expertise shared at the conference.

The governor said that in order to ensure an effective provision of services, it is helpful to look outward to the models and experiences of other island jurisdictions in the region.

WPIAFC president Stanley Torres Jr. said their association consists of Guam, the CNMI, Palau, FSM, and Marshall Islands.

"All of the key leaders of the chain are here to support our cause," Torres said.

Torres said this year's conference theme—"Creating a Culture of Safety: Protecting Our Most Valuable Resource: Firefighters"—represents their commitment to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries among firefighters.

Tan Holdings, CTSI, TSL Foundation raise \$53K for Haiyan victims



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings and CTSI Logistics donates a total of \$53,074 for super typhoon Haiyan survivors to the Philippine government. In the photo are Consul General Bayani Mangibin and Tan Holdings president/CTSI Logistics CEO Jerry Tan along with representatives from both parties.

Employees from the different companies under Tan Holdings, as well as sister company CTSI Logistics, donated the total amount of \$53,074 for the survivors of super typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Super typhoon Haiyan, with winds of up to 200 mph, is considered the strongest cyclone ever to make landfall. It carved a path of destruction across central Philippines, leaving close

to 4,000 dead, 4 million people displaced, and over 571,000 homes damaged.

Tan Holdings president and CTSI Logistics CEO Jerry Tan represented the companies in a simple turnover ceremony held yesterday with Philippine Consulate General Bayani Mangibin at the latter's office in Guam.

Tan handed over two checks amounting to \$27,874 and \$25,200, representing the do-

nations from employees of Tan Holdings and CTSI Logistics, respectively. The Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Tan Holdings, also helped by matching the amounts raised by the employees.

"Haiyan was a truly unfortunate tragedy, and we immediately wanted to help. And it was through the compassion, concern, and initiative of our team members that we were able to

raise this amount," said Tan.

Eli Arago, Tan Holdings SVP, added: "Tan Holdings employees were very supportive and they gave their donations wholeheartedly. I did not expect that we could raise this much and I am very grateful to all our employees that in spite of all the hardships, they did not have second thoughts and were very much willing to help."

In response, Consul General

Bayani Mangibin conveyed his heartfelt thanks to Tan, the Executive Teams, and employees of Tan Holdings for the generous donations. In a statement, the Consul General added that the donations "will go a long way to help our severely affected Filipino brothers and sisters and will also give them hope and inspiration to rise from this tragedy."

Tan added, "Our work doesn't end here. There are many other

ways to help. We have a CTSI Logistics station and some affiliate companies based in Manila, as well as our Corporate Support Group. Being closer to the area affected by the storm, they are also reaching out in ways that can more directly impact the survivors in a positive way. There will be a long process of rebuilding, and through our offices in Manila, we will continue to care and to help." (PR)



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PSS spearheads 'dollar drive' for Haiyan victims

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System leadership, headed by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, is spearheading a dollar-drive that aims to raise funds for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan that recently hit central Philippines.

On Friday, Sablan and her staff, principals, and leadership members trooped to the streets to ask motorists for donations. PSS employees were first seen doing the fund drive at the vicinity of Isa Drive on Capital Hill.

According to Sablan, a significant percentage of the PSS pop-

ulation is of Filipino descent, including students and employees. The decision to raise funds for the purpose was reached during the recent principals' meeting, according to her.

The dollar-drive is in partnership with the CNMI American Red Cross, which will handle all donations as it responds to the immediate needs of the typhoon victims.

GROUP TO LAUNCH FUNDRAISER FOR TYPHOON VICTIMS

Kalayaan, Inc., in collaboration with LBC Foundation and through the support of Cargo Express, will be launching a fundraising drive for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

In-kind donations such as clothing, bed sheets, towels, shoes, books, toys, or anything that would be of help to the typhoon victims will be very much appreciated. All donations will be turned over to the Phil-

ippine National Red Cross.

Any donations may be dropped off at the following venue:

■ Bicol Pavilion

Friday, Nov. 22, 2013
4pm to 7pm

■ Pavilion beside the Minatchom Atdao

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013
10:30am to 3:30pm

For inquiries, call Maricel Cascasan at 483-9428 or Josephine Bautista at 483-9429. (PR)

Sablan said all cash donations will be used to buy the most immediate needs of the victims such as food, clothing, and the needs of children.

She shared that there are PSS employees who remain worried about their families' situation in the devastated areas where thousands of fatalities have been recorded.

Last Friday, Sablan said, she was moved when one of the teachers came to her and informed her about her family's safe condition in Tacloban City, one of the hardly hit areas in the Visayas region.

"It's good to know that they remain very hopeful. I know this is a difficult time for them,

and PSS is here to support them," said the commissioner.

Although PSS is taking the lead in the dollar drive, Sablan credited the generous heart of Saipan's people who are always willing to help those in need.

"Everyone that passed us today [here at Isa Drive], they've given us certain amounts! Some

even made \$100 donations! I want to thank them all for their help," she said Friday, adding that this only goes to show the kind heart of Saipan's people.

The PSS-spearheaded "dollar drive" will continue in major thoroughfares and total donation is expected to be known by this week.

Suspended lawyer pleads guilty in new domestic violence case

» Atalig to serve about 8 months in prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig pleaded guilty yesterday in a new domestic violence case that happened in March on Saipan.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Atalig to six months in prison and also ordered him to serve 325 days of his suspended sentence in a previous criminal conviction, with credit for time served.

The 56-year-old Atalig has already spent about eight months in prison in that previous case. Since he was given credit for the eight months, this means that he has to serve about two more months, for a total of about eight months in prison.

Atalig was allowed to start serving his sentence on Jan. 1, 2014.

He was also required to pay a \$500 fine and \$25 court assessment fee and perform 300 hours of community service.

Representing himself, Atalig pleaded guilty to assault and battery, two counts of disturbing the peace, and criminal contempt as part of a plea deal.

Atalig also admitted to violating his probation in his previous conviction for domestic vio-

lence that occurred in 2012.

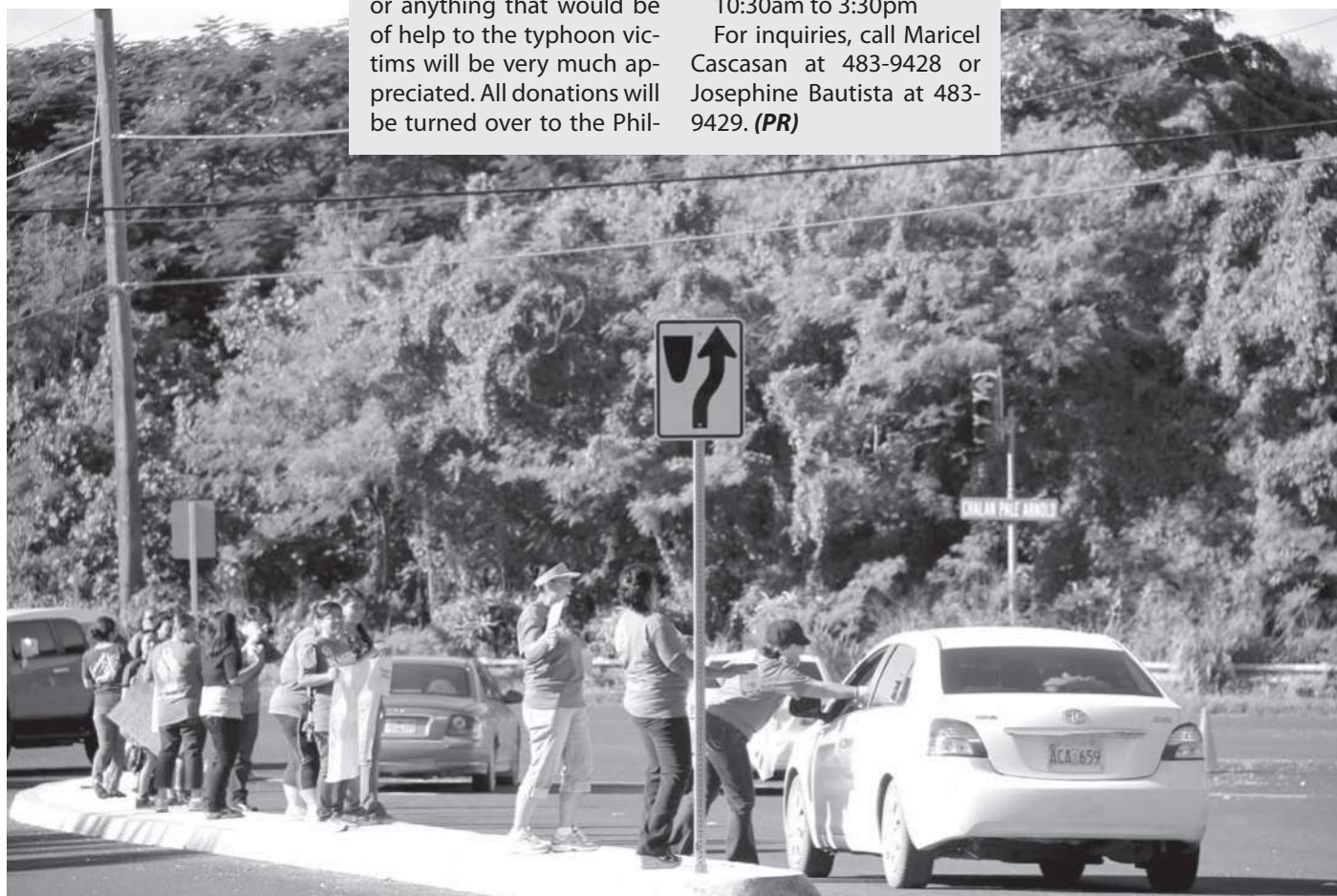
As part of the plea deal, the Office of the Attorney General dropped the remaining charges: child abuse and a count of disturbing the peace.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on March 4, 2013 on Saipan, Atalig went to the home of his former wife and their three children, yelled to be let in, kicked the sliding glass door, and walked into the house. Once inside, Atalig followed his former wife around the dining room table and then began following their 13-year-old daughter, touching the girl and causing her to trip and fall over.

The court said that Atalig's actions inflicted physical pain and mental distress upon the girl and terrified his former wife and their other 11-year-old child. His actions violated the court's previous order as at the time, he was still on probation for his 2012 case.

In January 2013, Atalig pleaded guilty to two counts of assault (domestic violence). Wiseman sentenced him to 40 days of time served.

In May 2012, Wiseman suspended Atalig and attorney Reynaldo Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for refusing to return \$1.1 million in attorneys' fees that they obtained from the Angel Malite estate.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Employees of the Public School System take to the streets Friday noon to conduct the "Dollar Drive" campaign at Isa Drive on Capital Hill. PSS, in partnership with the CNMI American Red Cross, aims to raise funds for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan that hit hard the Visayas region of the Philippines.

CLASS ACTION FILE VS GARMENT INDUSTRY REOPENED

Bellas says \$171,795 in residual money ready for donation

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

After a lengthy litigation that dragged on for nine years, the federal court closed the class action against the garment industry in 2010. The case, however, was recently reopened because there still exists a residual amount of \$171,795.91.

Former Superior Court judge Timothy H. Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he has been soliciting requests from charitable organizations where he could donate the money.

Bellas used to serve as chairman of the Garment Oversight Board, which was set up pursuant to the \$20-million settlement agreement in a class action against the garment industry.

The federal court closed the GOB in October 2008 and the Garment Workers Trust Fund

was then formed, which Bellas also chaired. In June 2010, the District Court approved the final report of the Garment Workers Trust Fund and closed the file.

The court recently appointed Bellas to distribute the residual funds that were previously held in trust for a contingent liability that never required payment.

In a phone interview yesterday, Bellas said that then-claims administrator Gilardi & Co. has money that it did not include in the funds that were transferred to the GOB.

Bellas said that Gilardi & Co. was basically holding the money that was intended to pay some kind of potential liability.

"That potential liability never came up and as a result, the time for that liability is gone," he said.

Bellas said Gilardi & Co. called up the attorneys for plaintiffs in the class action

and asked what they should do with the money.

"So their attorney called me and said 'we wanted to transfer this money to you and do with what you did with the other money from that was left over,'" Bellas said.

He said Gilardi & Co. had \$113,655.91 and plaintiffs' lawyers also had \$58,140 in their trust account that they did not dispose of.

Bellas said the two amounts were sent to him late August this year and that he has the money in his trust account.

Like what he did before with the leftover money, Bellas is now soliciting a list of groups who could receive the money. The groups should be Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) qualified (charitable status).

"Once I kind of cut through the applicants and make a short

list, then I'm going to divide the money and going to submit it to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for her approval," he said.

In January 2010, Bellas donated a total of \$625,000 to 14 non-profit organizations on Saipan. In June 2010, the remaining balance of \$5,314.07 was donated to the Friends of the Library.

The donation became controversial after some former garment workers tried to stop Bellas from donating the leftover funds. They said the money should go to them because they are still on the island and facing hardships.

District Court Judge Alex Munson denied the workers' motions, saying that the 9-year-old litigation has to end at some point and that point has been reached, after years of court monitoring.

United includes Guam in portable device policy

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued yesterday a statement on United Airlines' inclusion of Guam in their revised policy on Portable Entertainment Devices. Beginning on Nov. 20, 2013, United will begin allowing customers traveling to and from Guam and the other territories to continue using certain portable devices throughout the duration of their flight. This is consistent with policy implemented for all U.S. domestic flights following new regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration that eased PED use during flight.

On Oct. 31, 2013, the FAA issued new regulations and guidance on the gate-to-gate use of PEDs by airline customers. The regulations were a result of an August 2012 FAA notice on current policy, guidance, and procedures that aircraft operators use when determining if passengers could use PEDs.

In January 2013, the FAA convened the PED Aviation Rule-making Committee, which developed regulations that loosened restrictions on certain PED use during gate-to-gate operations.

"I appreciate that United has worked diligently to get approval from the FAA to allow customers to use PEDs in-flight at lower altitudes," said Bordallo. "I was concerned that United's initial application for PED use did not consider Guam and the other territories as domestic for this policy. However I appreciate that United has reconsidered their initial policy and will begin allowing customers to use certain PEDs from gate-to-gate beginning on November 20, 2013. United's diligent action demonstrates the importance of the U.S. territories and the travelers who fly to and from United's hub in Guam. This will be an important benefit for frequent fliers from Guam and the other territories." (PR)

Farmer with \$650 monthly wage is denied CW visa

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A farmer holding a valid CW permit was denied a CW visa at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines, and he claims it's because of his low \$650-a-month salary that the consul repeatedly asked him about dur-

ing his Oct. 16 interview.

The 40-year-old farmer is supposed to return to Saipan on Dec. 11 but without a CW visa, he cannot re-enter the CNMI as a foreign worker.

"I want to go back and continue working. I don't have a job here and I have a family to feed. I like my job in Saipan,"

Hard-to fill-teaching posts still a challenge for public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The need for more public school teachers continue to be a great challenge for the CNMI Public School System following disclosure that many positions remain unfilled almost three months after the new school year opened.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the need for teachers are mostly in secondary schools, which require some specialties in the areas of English, chemistry, geometry, mathematics, science, and others.

She described these positions as "hard to fill."

"We fill our position when there is vacancy, but still some teaching positions are hard to fill especially for the high school," she said.

Based on PSS data as of September, the system has over 900 employees, of which a little over 400 are classroom teachers in elementary and high school. The system has more than 10,000 students this new school year.

Sablan said that PSS is tapping the teachers-teachers.com services to fill its vacant teaching positions.

Teachers-Teachers.com is a

free service designed to help educators find new and exciting teaching jobs, administrative jobs, and other related service positions. The service helps applicants efficiently find teaching jobs by position area and location.

When asked who takes over the classroom in case assigned teachers are out, Sablan said that PSS has a pool of "substitutes."

"Right now, there are open positions but we have our pool of substitutes. Whenever our teachers are on medical or family leave, we're using them," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

A substitute teacher is on an on-call basis and is usually given a short-term contract that may take from one week to a few months, depending on the need.

PSS pays its substitutes with bachelor's degrees \$100 per day while those with associate degrees get \$60 per day.

Under PSS' \$33 million budget for fiscal year 2014, PSS can hire more teachers and staff after the Legislature allowed the restoration of some positions. There are about a hundred positions in public schools, mostly classroom teachers, that were eliminated in last fiscal year's budget for public schools.

the farmer told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview yesterday afternoon.

He asked *Saipan Tribune* not to publish his name at this time, fearing that his chance of getting a CW visa would further diminish.

"I am asking for help. Who should I turn to?" asked the father of two boys, a 10-year-old and a 13-year-old.

The worker is now staying in Nueva Vizcaya, a province in northern Luzon.

He said he could have told the male consul that farmers are supposed to be exempt from the minimum wage of \$5.55 an hour; that's why his monthly salary could be much lower than if he's earning minimum wage. A minimum wage earner would have at least

\$962 monthly wage.

But he said that after a lengthy interview and waiting period while the consul was conferring with other office personnel, the consul later took his passport. He said he took that to mean his application was approved.

"So when he took my passport, he told me I should just wait for about a week for the delivery. I already thought my CW visa application was approved. I know that once they take your passport, your application is approved," he said.

About a week later, he was excited to receive a package containing his passport, only to

find a note that says his CW visa application was "denied."

He recalled that one of the first questions he was asked at the embassy was his salary.

» CW permit holder says US Embassy took his passport after interview, only to be denied

"I said \$650 a month. Then he said, 'What?' He went inside and consulted other staff. Later, he called me again and asked how many days

I work in a week, I said five days. He asked how many hours I work in a day and I said eight hours," he said.

Three other CW permit holders interviewed on the same day the farmer was interviewed at the U.S. Embassy all got their CW visas. At least one of them is now back in

the CNMI and has also sought help for the farmer.

The farmer said he also reached out to his employer, and was told they will help him but as of yesterday, he said he has not heard back from them.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issues a CW grant of status, but it is the U.S. State Department—through U.S. embassies outside the United States—that processes visa applications of those with CW status.

A response from the U.S. State Department has yet to be received as of yesterday.

This comes weeks after at least two CW permit holders got their B1/B2 visas reinstated by the U.S. State Department. The U.S. Embassy in Manila previously cancelled their still valid B1/B2 when they applied for—and were granted—CW visas.



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- Triple J Saipan
- Pinnacle Staffing, LLC
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- Northern Marianas College
- Coral Ocean Point
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- Delta Management Corp.
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- Guam Marianas Training Center
- Island Essence Inc./Island Manpower & Island Construction
- CNMI Public School System

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WIA: Katrina (670)664-1757



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Board of Parole

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E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE Preliminary Hearing

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice hereby given that a **Preliminary Hearing** is scheduled for **November 21, (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m.**, at the **CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216**, Saipan. The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

A. Parolee

1. SARALU, Jesse. Cr. Cs. No.: 08-0053D/02-0086 BOP.: 12-005

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ **Rose Ada-Hocog**
Hearing Examiner

Hocog couple found liable to pay CDA \$292K

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court judge pro tempore Michael J. Bordallo issued yesterday a final judgment that found Senate vice president Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) and his wife Villa M. Hocog liable to pay \$292,048.53 to the Commonwealth Development Authority for non-payment of lease on a piece of land on Rota.

Bordallo forfeited and terminated the ground lease and option-to-purchase agreement that the Hocog couple entered with CDA for a 960-square-meter lot.

The judge awarded possession of the leased premises to CDA.

Bordallo awarded CDA with costs and attorney's fees, but denied the agency's request for payment of double rent.

According to court records, on Sept. 20, 2005, CDA acquired all rights, title, and interest to the land by assignment from the Bank of Guam. The Hocogs previously held a lease agreement for the lot with the bank.

As part of the assignment, CDA took over that agreement but ultimately terminated the

lease in April 2006. The Hocogs, however, remained on the property as holdover tenants.

The parties negotiated a new agreement, culminating

in a ground lease and option to purchase, which was executed in April 2009. The leased lot includes all improvements, including a two-story residential building.

Under the terms of the ground lease, CDA agreed to lease the lot to the Hocogs for a term of 30 years, beginning December 2008.

The Hocogs agreed to pay CDA a total of \$212,000 plus 5-percent interest per annum in increments of \$800 per month.

In addition to their rental obligations, CDA claims the Hocogs also owed \$25,000 based on a prior month-to-month tenancy for this premises.

CDA, through counsel Jennifer Dockter, claims that despite attempts to collect, the Hocogs have failed to pay the \$25,000 owed from the prior lease agreement.

CDA further claims that the defendants have made only one payment of \$4,145.50 on Sept. 21, 2009, toward their current lease agreement.

CDA then filed a com-

plaint to terminate the ground lease and option-to-purchase agreement in Feb. 2011. The Hocogs denied that they were in default.

CDA filed a motion for summary judgment seeking termination of the ground lease. The Hocogs claim that they have made timely monthly payments in satisfaction of their obligation under the ground lease and lease option.

Victor Hocog submitted in January an amended affidavit, asserting that his monthly payments to CDA were "for the house rental and not for the arrears."

In granting CDA's motion on Oct. 8, 2013, Bordallo said the only corroborative evidence to support the position of Victor Hocog was his statement: "That my income tax for calendar years 2007 and 2008 was withheld and that it was my understanding that is what applied for my house rental."

Bordallo found the senator's statement as too vague to meet his burden.

"It does not identify either the amount or dates of payments, nor does he explain how his 2007 and 2008 income tax returns account for the years from 2009 to the present in which he was obligated to make monthly payments," the judge said.

Ex-CRM official gets 50 more hours of community service

The federal court on Tuesday added 50 hours of community service to the release conditions of former Coastal Resources Management official Benny K. Pangelinan, who was found accessing the Internet again, in violation of his probation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found that there was sufficient evidence to support a finding that Pangelinan violated his supervised condition.

Manglona noted that Pangelinan failed to obey the rule that prohibits him from possessing or using a computer or other electronic device with access to the Internet, without prior written permission from his probation officer.

Pangelinan admitted to the allegation.

The U.S. Probation Office had asked the court to revoke Pangelinan's supervision but Manglona only modified the conditions of Pangelinan's release.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola disclosed that, on Oct. 10, 2013, while at the intersection across San Jose Mart in San Jose, he saw Pangelinan leaving an Internet shop.

At a noncompliance meeting on Oct. 15, Pangelinan denied accessing or attempting to use the Internet. He said if people saw him walking into the Internet shop across Town House in Chalan Kanoa, he

was there to buy a prepaid phone card.

When told that he was seen at the Internet shop in San Jose and that a video recording showed him using the computer, Pangelinan admitted to accessing the Internet but only to catch up on sports events, read news, and send an email to his son in Oregon.

Last month, Pangelinan pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of wire fraud in connection with his new involvement in an Internet scam. His sentencing will be on Feb. 21, 2014, at 9am.

According to the U.S. government, Pangelinan transmitted or caused to be transmitted a total of \$3,770 through wire transfers to Malaysia and Australia in 2011.

In January 2007, a federal jury found Pangelinan guilty of wire fraud charges for defrauding potential investors and for his involvement in an Internet scam. He was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay \$129,250 in restitution to five victims.

In September 2011, the U.S. Probation Office moved to revoke Pangelinan's probation after finding out that he borrowed \$21,450 from a couple and received over \$11,000 from a family member, with promises to both that he will double their money. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Hocog

Docomo to air Pacquiao-Rios fight

Boxing fans are in for a treat as Docomo Pacific will broadcast live the fight between Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao of the Philippines against Brandon Rios of Oxnard, California, from The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena this Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson said that boxing is still very popular on Saipan and Pacquiao remains one of its biggest draws.

"Despite losing his last two fights, Manny Pacquiao remains a very popular fighter in the eyes of boxing fans around the world. Manny's fans are curious of the outcome of this fight, considering that Manny is a public figure and politician and how the recent devastation of supertyphoon Haiyan in the eastern Philippines could affect his psyche."

Nelson said that doors will open for the live broadcast of "The Clash in Cotai" at 11am, which is the same time the pre-show for the Pacquiao-Rios fight starts.

General admission is \$30, while VIP admissions at Chambre Bar, which includes a light lunch buffet, is \$50.

Tickets are on sale at Docomo Pacific Gualo Rai and will be available at the door the day of the event while supplies last.

Trained by Hall of Famer Freddie Roach, Pacquiao (54-5-2, 38 KOs), Pacquiao is the only fighter to win eight world titles in as many different weight divisions.

A three-time Fighter of the Year and the Boxing Writers Association of America's "Fighter of the Decade," Pacquiao's résumé features victories over future Hall of Famers, including Oscar De La Hoya, Ricky Hatton, Marco Antonio Barrera, Erik Morales, Miguel Cotto, Shane Mosley and Juan Manuel Márquez.

From 2008 to 2010, five of his seven victories were world title victories in five different weight classes, where he dethroned super featherweight champion Márquez, lightweight champion David Diaz,

junior welterweight champion Hatton, welterweight champion Cotto, and he annihilated three-time world champion Antonio Margarito for the vacant super welterweight title.

Pacquiao's seven-year, 15-bout winning streak came to an end on June 9, 2012, when he lost his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown to undefeated WBO junior welterweight champion Timothy Bradley Jr. via a controversial split decision. That was followed by a knockout loss to professional nemesis Márquez last Dec. 8—a fight Pacquiao was winning before he got careless trying to close the show and was stopped by the knockout punch of the year. No active boxer has sold more live tickets in the U.S. than Pacquiao, who is also credited with over eight million pay-per-view buys.

Rios (31-1-1, 22 KOs), the former World Boxing lightweight champion, is on the hunt for his second world title in as many weight divisions. He enters this fight having won 11 of his previous 14 fights by knockout.

One of boxing's most exciting fighters, Rios is known for his all-action fan-friendly fighting style. His trainer, former International Boxing Federation junior lightweight champion and 2012 Trainer of the Year Robert Garcia, calls it a "throwback" style with a warrior's mentality.

Highlight knockout victories on Rios' resume include Miguel Acosta, Anthony Peterson, Urbano Antillon, John Murray and Mike Alvarado. Alvarado, the natural 140-pounder, entered that fight as the undefeated WBO No. 1 junior welterweight contender. Many consider it 2012's Fight of the Year. In their exciting rematch, which took place on March 30, Rios lost a close decision for the vacant WBO interim junior welterweight title. It is considered the leading contender for the 2013 Fight of the Year. Rios enters this fight world-rated as the No. 1 contender. *(Mark Rabago)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 21, 2005

Asiana to add three more flights next month

Asiana Airlines will operate additional three flights per week beginning next month in anticipation of the increased passenger demand during the winter season. The extra flights between Saipan and Seoul will be offered every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between Dec. 23 and March 1. Asiana will provide the flights in addition to its daily service between the two destinations. The service will utilize Airbus 322 aircraft with a capacity of 177 seats.

EPA lauds CNMI for increasing Saipan's water supply

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lauded the CNMI's Water Task Force for increasing Saipan's water supply by about 2 million gallons daily. Saipan is the only municipality across the nation that does not have 24-hour potable water daily. With the task force's efforts, however, Saipan's water supply has increased by 25 percent to approximately 10 million gallons daily, according to EPA Pacific Island's Office manager John McCarroll. McCarroll noted the task force's efforts to drill new water wells, which directly increase water supply.

November 21, 2006

NMA wins Recycles Day contest

The Northern Marianas Academy, a private school in the Commonwealth, topped this year's CNMI Recycles Day competition. Division of Environmental Quality Waste Reduction and Recycling coordinator Tina Sablan said the school collected a total of 50,380 lbs of recyclable materials. There were 34 NMA students who participated in the contest, bringing in 1,481.8 lbs of trash per student. NMA won \$600 cash prize, plus 30 water-park passes to Pacific Islands Club and 20 seedlings, courtesy of the CNMI Forestry.

LB urged to adopt some HI practices

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan expressed hope yesterday that the Legislative Bureau would consider adopting practices it learned last week from its Hawaii counterpart. The Office of the Public Auditor arranged the meetings, in a bid to get the CNMI Legislature acquainted with administrative processes at the Hawaii House of Representatives. Sablan said that Hawaii usually offers the CNMI a good model to follow because it has similar customs and traditions and has a multi-island government. In this case, he said, the bureau can learn from the Hawaii Legislature's approach to employment, procurement, property control, and travel.

November 21, 2007

Buyers shifting to fuel-efficient cars

The steady increase in fuel prices is forcing local car buyers to opt for more fuel-efficient vehicles instead of gas-guzzlers, according to the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association. However, the high cost of gasoline is not the lone factor influencing customers in their car choices; the high billings of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is also affecting car-buying habits, according to CADA secretary Doug Brennan. "The continuing rise in the cost of gasoline and record-breaking CUC billings have pushed customers toward more fuel-efficient vehicles," he said, adding that it has become more difficult to sell vehicles with V6 engines and almost impossible to sell a vehicle with a V8 engine. In a quick review of sales from 2004 through October 2007, Brennan said it is quite evident that the demand for larger engines has fallen off.

NMI election office cuts down services

The Commonwealth Election Commission has started to cut down on services because of staff reduction. The Election Commission announced yesterday that it would no longer issue voter registration certification on demand. The document will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be issued only when personnel are available. Voter registration certification is often requested for purposes of Medicare, Medicaid, medical referral, scholarships, and U.S. passports. Since the Open Government Act does not cover voter registration certification, the 10-business day issuance requirement does not apply, CEC said. The commission started closing the office during lunch hours yesterday. It was the first time it has done so since Jan. 4, 1999. Furthermore, the commission advised the public that it would be operating on a skeleton staff—possibly one employee at a time—now that the election was over.

CUC emergency extended anew; House panel offers solutions

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. remains under a state of emergency not only because of \$18 million that two government agencies owe it and millions more from residential customers, but also because of a continued lack of a board of directors and lack of U.S. workers with specialized skills and training for its operations—the very same issues that a House committee wants addressed.

When he was acting governor on Oct. 16, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider signed Executive

Order 2013-25 extending the state of emergency declaration for CUC for another 30 days.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, listed at least 10 suggestions on how to improve CUC and lift its state of emergency.

These include bringing an advisory board, although the Inos administration has been saying that it has been hard to find qualified individuals to step up to the plate.

Deleon Guerrero suggested CUC to issue a request for proposal to invite businesses to

invest in renewable energy by March 2014 “thus eliminating the use of pipeline and storage tanks and security guards.”

He also recommended obtaining a “loan for stipulated projects, typhoon reserved supplies, salary increase for deserving employees, no additional vehicles, no rate increase to pay loan, loan shall include payment for loan.”

“Use assets as collateral such as power plant IV,” he said.

The PUTC chair recommends canceling CUC’s call center, removing “non-performing employees,” stopping unnecessary disconnection, returning securi-

ty deposits after one year, ensuring customer-friendly personnel, and returning customer’s money that was used to pay a loan that was later on not pursued with Independence Bank.

Deleon Guerrero also recommends cuts in the salaries of CUC’s top managers.

UniFil, TMLC tag-team for Haiyan relief effort

Two organizations on Tinian are joining forces for a monetary and in-kind donation drive that will benefit victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The United Filipinos Association in Tinian and the Tinian Marianas Lions Club have placed boxes for in-kind donations at JC Café, St. Michael’s Day Care Center, U Save Store, Mobil Mart, JJ Mart, the Tinian Mayor’s Office during office hour, and the Hangar at the airport.

UniFil president Rodney Cabarles said that in-kind donations would be shipped to LBC Saipan free of charge through 3K Store, the LBC agent on Tinian. He thanked the store’s owners, Julio and Bing Mojica, for the gesture. He said SN5 management, through Patrick San Nicolas, also offered the same arrangements.

TMLC president Lizabeth Hofschneider, meanwhile, said their group also sent out letters to government offices and private companies for cash donations.

She said nonprofit organizations, government staff, and private individuals on Tinian who wish to extend help and donate may send a check payable to UniFil.

Hofschneider said TMLC actually started collecting donations at the Veterans Day and Marines birthday celebration at North Field and was able to collect \$160. She thanked all the Marines and the community who donated that day.

In addition, the Tinian Junior and Senior High School National Honor Society and LEO Club, led by its president Ellimae Almogela, will be asking pledges for their walkathon

fundraiser on Nov. 30 and will initiate a used clothing donation drive throughout the school.

UniFil and TMLC have also placed donation boxes and bottles virtually at all stores on the island.

Cabarles said UniFil will also be organizing a Thanksgiving ball dubbed ChaCha for Yolanda and a bingo fundraiser. Net proceeds from both events will go to the typhoon victims. The Philippine name for Haiyan is Yolanda.

The ChaCha for Yolanda is this Friday, Nov. 22, and the bingo fundraiser is on Nov. 29. Both fundraisers will be held at JC Café.

Ticket for both events are \$10 each. The bingo is in collaboration with CARE Club headed by president Doris Dela Cruz and vice president Vina Hofschneider. Those who want to donate raffle prizes for the bingo fundraiser may contact Vina Hofschneider at 989-0293 or Susan Cruz 287-0016.

For tickets, call or approach UniFil Rod Cabarles at 285-3637, Tess Sanchez at 898-0084, Liz Hofschneider at 287-9697, or Paul Madriaga at 287-4501.

Monetary donations will be coursed through ABS-CBN Foundation’s Sagip Kapamilya while in-kind donation will be sent to the Philippine Red Cross through LBC Saipan.

UniFil, meanwhile, deposited \$500 in donations to Sagip Kapamilya account for victims of the Bohol earthquake last month. The deposit was made by UniFil vice president Susan Cruz at RNV Forex remittance center in Garapan. *(Mark Rabago)*

Bill tasks DLNR to manage submerged lands

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two months after President Barack Obama signed a law conveying 3 miles of submerged lands to the CNMI, Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed a bill that empowers the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to manage, use, and dispose of these submerged lands off the Commonwealth’s coast.

Yumul’s Senate Bill 18-38 says this authorization is pursuant to U.S. Public Law 113-34 that Obama signed on Sept. 18.

The bill adds another duty for DLNR, which is to also protect and preserve Mañagaha Island, in consultation with the Department of Public Lands.

SB 18-38 also says that the DLNR secretary may promulgate necessary regulations to carry out its duties.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili

C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who has worked to ensure that 3 miles of submerged lands are conveyed to the CNMI, had said the CNMI now has to identify the agency responsible for the submerged lands and formulate the regulations governing the use of these offshore lands.

Speaking before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce early this month, Sablan said the CNMI can now use these sub-

merged lands for its economic development.

The new submerged lands law gives the CNMI control of the underwater coasts of its 14 islands. The CNMI becomes the last U.S. coastal state or territory to own its offshore lands.

At Sablan’s request, U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Lisa Murkowski introduced S. 256 or the submerged lands legislation that became law. It’s the same law that delayed the CNMI’s 50-cent minimum wage increase for 2013 and 2015.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION RATE PROCEEDING

DOCKET 13-01

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 9:00 a.m. on **Monday December 9, 2013**, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [*Commission*] will conduct a public hearing at the **Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center**, Saipan to receive and consider evidence and discussion regarding the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s [*CUC*] July 5, 2013 petition for rate relief, as amended on November 8, 2013. The public can review these filings on CUC’s website under the “Announcement” tab. A two hour period [2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.] on December 9 will be reserved for public comments. This hearing will continue, if necessary, at the same location at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 10, 2013. The Commission will also conduct additional public hearings at 4:30 p.m. on **December 11, 2013** at the **Tinian Superior Court** and at 4:30 p.m. on **December 12, 2013** at the **Rota Superior Court**.

In its November 8, 2013 first amended petition, CUC withdrew all requests for increase of its water and wastewater rates. Accordingly, in these hearings the Commission will only be reviewing CUC’s request for increase in its electric base rates and for other regulatory relief, as follows:



1. A \$4.93 million dollar increase in electric base rates to fund revenue requirements, including: a] \$1.2 million dollars to fund payments due to Commonwealth Development Authority; and b] \$1.41 million dollars for annual expenses related to change order #5 to CUC’s September 17, 1997 contract with Telesource CNMI, Inc.
2. Revision of electric residential customer rate blocks.
3. Amendment of the electric lifeline rate.
4. Establishment of an electric large customer standby charge.
5. Approval of new or revised “non-rate” fees.
6. An interim delegation of authority to CUC regarding monthly LEAC adjustment.

The amended petition is being reviewed by the Commission’s independent regulatory consultant [Georgetown Consulting Group] who will submit its position on the need and “just and reasonableness” of CUC’s rate and related requests at the public hearings.

The Commission will also review at the public hearings the status of: a] CUC’s accounts receivable; b] the \$1.02 million dollars in annual revenue, which it awarded CUC by Decision dated June 7, 2011 to fund obligations under a \$10 million dollar loan with Independence Bank, which never closed; and c] CUC’s compliance with the requirements of Public Law 15-87 regarding the establishment of a net metering program.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC’S ATTENDANCE at the public hearings. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearings pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) of Public Law 15-35 should on or before December 3, 2013 file with the Commission at The Law Office of Lillian A. Tenorio, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan [phone: (670)234-7850; email: latlaw@pticom.com] an application and offer of proof in accordance with said section and with Commission Procedural Rule 11(c).

The Commission will notice and conduct a business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearings after its Hearing Examiner’s Report has been filed and noticed for public comment. Further information about the public hearings and the public’s right to participate may be obtained from The Law Office of Lillian A. Tenorio.



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

State Health Information Technology (HIT) Meeting
Stakeholders Advisory Committee
Tuesday, November 26, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
in CHCC's Conference Room 3

Agenda

I. Stakeholders Roll Call	1. Immunization
II. Review and adoption of October 15, 2013 Meeting minutes	2. Laboratory Reporting
III. Review and adoption of today's Agenda	3. Surveillance
IV. Regular Business	F. Health Information Exchange Update
A. Health Information Technology (HIT) Activities Update	1. Direct Secure Messaging
B. Possible Workshops on HIT and EHRs	G. PIER Project
C. Provider Stakeholders Update	V. Comments/Inputs from Stakeholders
D. CHCC EHR Network Update	VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
E. Public Health Update	VII. New Business
	VIII. Next Meeting
	IX. Adjournment

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Haitians at risk after unconscionable decision in DR

The relationship between the Dominican Republic and Haiti has always been contentious, occasionally violent, but a recent immigration ruling by a Dominican court marks a new low in the unfair treatment historically meted out to ethnic Haitians in that country.

Nearly two months ago, the Dominican Republic's highest judicial body issued a ruling denying citizenship to generations of individuals of Haitian descent born in that country, a decision with disastrous consequences for tens of thousands living on Dominican soil. It cannot go unchallenged by the world community.

Every nation has a right to decide who deserves to claim citizenship, but the Dominican Republic cannot absolve itself of moral responsibility by merely declaring that its constitution does not automatically confer that right on anyone born in that country.

For one thing, the decision goes back to 1929, which means ethnic Haitians born to parents who themselves were born in the Dominican Republic are now in jeopardy of losing their right to remain in the country and enjoy the benefits of citizenship.

These are people who know no other country and don't speak Creole, the main language of Haiti. The Dominican Republic's need for Haitian workers extends that country's responsibility. For decades, Dominican sugar farms and plantations have relied on Haitian labor to make their land profitable.

Haitians were lured by the prospect of jobs, often under horrible conditions. To suddenly turn them away as if they had contributed nothing to the Dominican economy over the years is unjust, not to mention hypocritical.

The court's unconscionable decision effectively codifies the discriminatory treatment that Haitians have received in the Dominican Republic for so long, bordering on outright racism. Dominican officials have tried to soften the blow by saying the affected individuals—who could number up to 200,000—are not technically “stateless,” since they could claim citizenship in Haiti under the rules of that country.

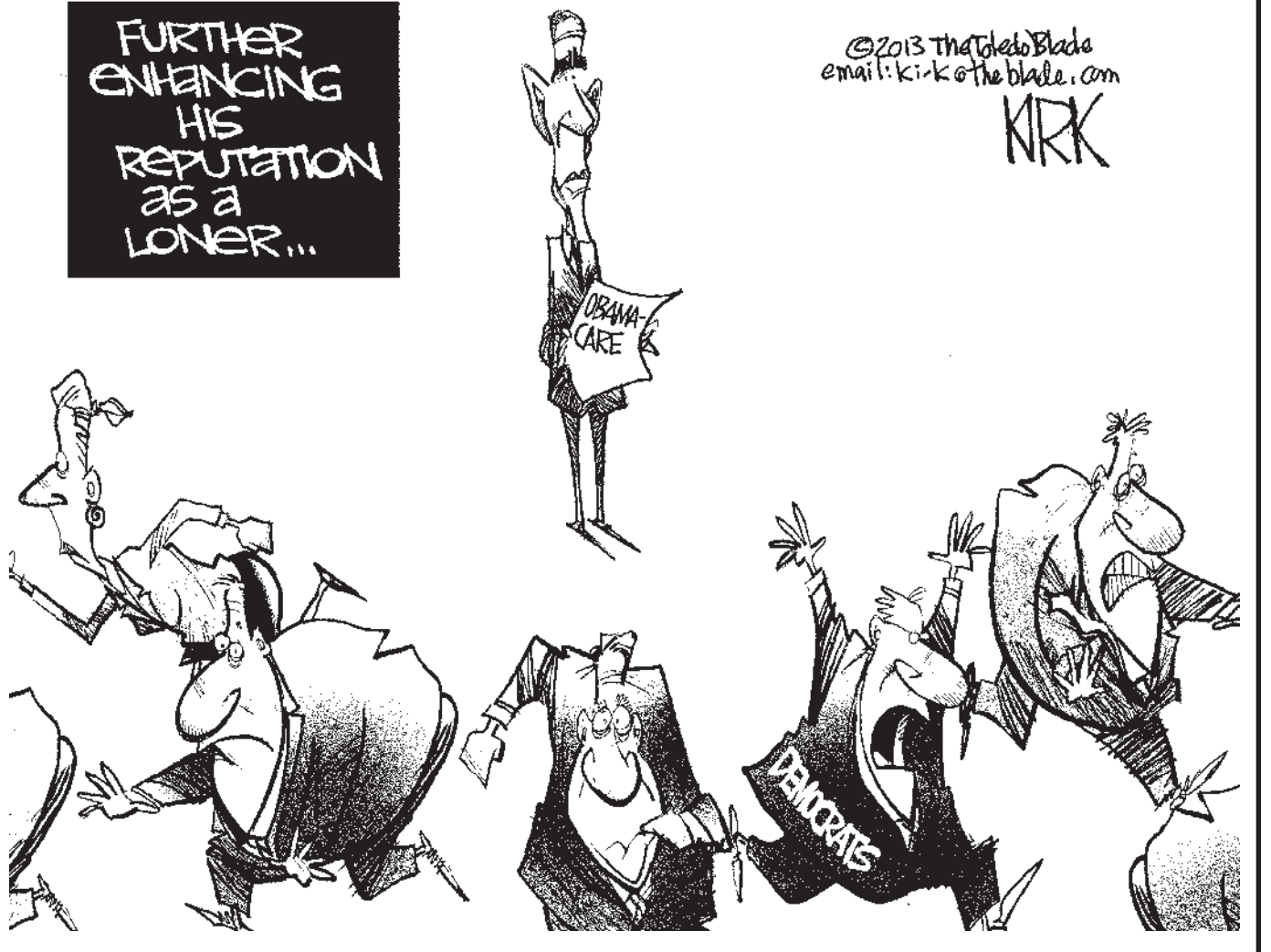
That, of course, is beside the point. Some Dominican officials have suggested that the decision by the court was merely an effort to reach “a clear immigration policy that respects human rights and international pacts,” and that once the legal status of “undocumented foreigners” is established, a path to citizenship will be open.

This is hardly reassuring. It is far from a promise to avoid the mass deportations that the court's decision could bring about. If it were otherwise, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the Organization of American States, the U.N. Human Rights Council, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and numerous civil society groups would not have objected or expressed concern.

The United States and the Caribbean community can help by pressing for an outcome that allows the Dominican Republic to claim that it reserves the right to decide who is and who is not a citizen—but not at the cost of destroying so many lives.

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FURTHER
ENHANCING
HIS
REPUTATION
as a
LONER...



JFK 1963

It was four years later after President John F. Kennedy went down by the grassy knoll across the downtown book depository when I first whiffed a lungful of Big D's arid air. We had taken exception to the irrelevant type of theological reflection we encountered in the backwoods of Kentucky in '65, and since we were not inclined to join the denominational services of religion, I quit perusing Thomas' tome!

Before heading back out to the Orient, however, a friend in Chicago told me to get in touch with a former Manila missionary who was then in charge of students' affairs at a theology school in Dallas, Texas, reportedly more open-minded than the warm-hearted but parochial one I had west of the Appalachia.

Having been lured into the Protestant chapel by the likes of John A. T. Robinson's invitational *Honest to God*, and the fresh winds of biblical scholarship and practical spirituality offered by theologs (sorry girls, church patriarchy of the '60s was firmly in place) like the NT scholar Rudolf Bultmann, the evangelical Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the urbane Paul Tillich and the New England ethicists, the Niebuhr brothers, with collegial welcome from Vatican II, Hans Kung and the venerable Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, I was not inclined to master the litany of classical pat answers as I was eagerly intent in sharpening realistic and authentic life questions.

In the Dallas of '67, I was shocked to find out that JFK was still one of Dallas' least-favored Presidents; there were some who actually held Lee Harvey Oswald as some kind of a folk hero! A block from my dorm was home to the John Birch Society. To their credit, the members did look like children of the washed and well-off, clean-shaven and neck-tied. My anticolonial Third World political orientation was not one of their favored homebrew. The school, in spite of its *laissez faire* scholastic tradition, was still a denominational school for pastors of local congregations, and some drove wearing wide brim hats in pickups to the schoolyard, displaying a rifle rack behind the driver's seat.

We remember this because Nov. 22 marks the 50th year of the assassination of JFK in Dallas, an occasion that brought tears to our innocent teenage eyes while we as a part-time working college student DJ'd and read news at a local radio station in the Cagayan Valley in '63.

Huff Post recently carried an article with a JFK handwritten speech that was to be delivered in Austin, Texas, on the evening of the fateful day. The speech's ending, addressed to the Democratic Party in Texas, went:

Neither the fanatics nor the faint-hearted are needed. And our duty as a Party is not to our Party alone, but to the nation, and, indeed, to all mankind ... So let us not be petty when our cause is so great. Let us not quarrel amongst ourselves when our Nation's future is at stake ... determined that this land we love shall lead all mankind into new frontiers of peace and abundance.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



The voice of America's Camelot was stilled that day before it had the chance to utter those words.

The Ivy League look of our Methodist-related school by Central Expressway on Highland Park belied its vaunted progressive credentials as children of families dripping in crude drove their V-8 guzzlers on campus from spreads dotted with derricks and cattle in the range. The studentry showed more frenzy in fraternity and sorority traditions than the scholastic virtues of académie. Like the manicured lawns in the surrounding homes, university yards were kept trimmed, the buildings swept clean, and residences maintained by southern blacks and Mejico Tejano servants who appeared properly cowed still wearing imaginary white gloves to do their chores.

It did not take long before our youthful gait joined the parliament of the street, holding vigil by the flagpole with a professor prayerfully protesting the war in Vietnam; we also walked with placards in front of a Washateria near the Hilton that displayed a sign: “For Whites Only.” As a foreign student, a mendicant monastic in a sea of privilege and wealth, I was tolerated but was socially kept at a distance.

The world that snuffed JFK's breath was alive and well in Lyndon Johnson's wide sprawl of '67 when I tally-hoed into Highland Park. A decade later, primetime TV chronicled the lives at Big D's Southfolks. A few years into the series, I gave up my “JR” nickname when the character J. R. Ewing played by smirk-faced Larry Hagman became the poster boy for Texas drawl's smarts and cunning!

JFK's hope for *new frontiers of peace and abundance*, in his view, from a nation of immigrants to one poised to send a human to the moon, continued as the nation's metaphor to justify military expansion, its arrogance rudely awakened by the collapse of the twin towers of NYC one fateful day in September. The shot that felled JFK in Dallas turned into a booming crash in New York with repercussions haunting corridors of powers that do not tire in spit-polishing Uncle Sam's uniformed soul.

Fifty years later, the nation struggles with its undocumented immigrants, with the CNMI Legislature, in a paroxysm of fear, knee-jerked itself into perceived implications on indigene politics. A message we saw on a young boy's t-shirt would have made JFK smile: *There are no immigrants on Planet Earth!*

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The fatal cost of living

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



As investments threaten to return to the islands, I'd yawn and whisper to the morning sun, parroting a line from one of Bob Dylan's songs, "Bring it on home to me," yep!

Amidst stagnant wages, sizeable cuts in retirement pension, doubled up by economic depression, even "monkey business is good business," sighs an uncle who had to close shop. And a lot of small businesses, the backbone of our community, have put up shutters and gone home. Troubling!

I've looked into the threshold of federal poverty income levels. They are not meaningful definition of minimum living standards. It's compromised because the cost of living varies widely across the country. The federal poverty income level is \$11,490 for a single one-person household while a family of four is \$23,550.

The individual income level pays for food, clothing, and shelter. You ask yourself how far would your dollar stretch in a place like the CNMI where the cost of living is quadruple that of Hawaii and New York. Consumers across the country have the added advantage of Depot, KMark, regular and super Walmart, Payless, Price Costco and others. There's a lot of fresh basic goods available daily that are far more cheaper than here.

Let's say you're the head of a family of four making \$23,550. This income pans out to \$490.62 on a biweekly basis or \$981.25 per month. Let's say your obligation includes paying anywhere between \$400-\$600 per month for the first family home. That doesn't leave much for other obligations, including monthly installments

for the family car, health insurance and the woefully costly utilities at month's end. You're basically dead in the water by the time your monthly income is spent.

Unless your spouse works somewhere, going through the monthly hurdle is one painful experience you have to endure daily. Perhaps you've even asked yourself if such condition would ever see the light of day or brighter tomorrow. The two predatory impositions—25-percent cut in pension pay plus power bills that increase as more loans are secured by CUC—turns the livelihood of our people down the pathway to subterranean abject poverty. You try to supplement it with a part-time job after hours, but there's hardly anything out there either. Do we have an alternative other than persistent bankruptcy in hopelessness?

Moreover, the predatory costs—cut in pension pay piled by increases in power bills—are actually costs plastered against your meager income. In other words, your cost of living has just taken a huge increase by some 30 percent. The strength of your income has gone Deep South (decreased considerably) while the cost of everything else shoots upwards.

Deduct the 30 percent from your take home pay if only to see what's left for the family. Amidst the deepening hardship against families resulting from pay cut and costly power bills, I'm sure the elected officials know that the two issues aren't helping people in the villages at all.

Let's privatize CUC and stop the bleeding ASAP! Doing so would do away with money for a pipeline and useless oil storage and set the stage for the new firm to begin emplacing reliable wind turbine generated power. It's the only way to do it right! We all deserve a breath of fresh air.

Success begins with truth!

Admirable the sense of integrity with which principals of the firms engaged in alternative energy and ship repair proposals have shared appropriate information on their plans with public officials. Equally admirable is the enthusiasm of the latter searching for "wealth and jobs creation" to help their people.

There's clarity and honesty between company principals and partners, elected officials, and the general public as they exchange views on the two huge projects presented for their review and infor-

mation. Hopefully, policymakers would embrace real meaningful projects on alternative energy by Green Globe Solutions.

It contains tangible goals that unite and excite the team effort and the understanding of what lies ahead under a partnership that would re-ignite the bright flames of investments once more. It's real solutions to real peoples' problems.

Pipinu` na gastun familia

I sueddon federat para i mamoble siha ni rumesisibe ayudu kanaha` tai bali `an mattu mage Marianas. Rason sa` mas guaguan gastun nesessidat siha guine. Taya` kampu `nai siña i familia kalamten pot para u alibia chinatsagan niha.

Este na sueddu ennaui i \$23,550 gi sakan para un` familia `nai guaha kuartu na membro. Dispues de ma-apase kobransan primet gima` familia (\$400-\$700 pesos gi mes) hokog salape gi pottanmoneda dispues de ma-apase otru obligasion siha.

Yangin ma-empleleha asaguamu, pues siña ha` buente un` letke komplidu kara` i balagbag familia pot `nos kuantos dias. Lau ensegidas muñgaha` hau sa` maliñgun halom dispues de man-apase hau kandet. Kulan mohon empleau CUC manadan familia guine.

Hafa i puntu? Ti presisu na para tafan mamatmos gi halom fache` chinatsaga yangin enfin mañgalamten representante-ta ya mana` praibet (privatize) i CUC. Ensegidas u halom un` kompania yan \$300 miyon pesos ya u aregla i sisteman kandet sin umahatsa presiun elektrisida. Dispues de ha chogue todou areglu, siempre u tunug `sino poduñg presiun kandet bes enkuando.

I presente na sistema `nai kada ratu umayau i CUC siempre hita ha` gi uttimu para u inapaga dibiña. Yangin malag Depattamenton Interior para u fan gagau na umagarentia inayauña gi maseha manu na bañku, siempre ennaui na dibi debi uma-apase. Hita ta` lu man-mafoñguñ nu ennaui na dibi. Makat na mattiru para megai gi tautau-ta.

Debi gi este na karera u satton i lehislatura umesgaihon inadoption resulasion para umana` praibet i CUC ya umanae` un` kompania ni sobla kualifikau umaregla i probleman sisteman kandet pa`gu kon-todu maribahan apas. Este solu satbasioña i didog na chinatsaga ni ha fafaña diariu i tautau-ta siha gi señoñoñ. Maila` ta soyu todus ya u fañaunau gi satbasion didog pinadese pot guaguan na apas kandet. Si Yuus Maase`!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shame on you!

Editor's Note: Due to its length, the following letter is being published in three parts. This is the first part.

I am writing this letter in response to the recent adoption by our House of Representatives of HR 18-34, a resolution to "respectfully request the House of Representatives of the 113th Congress of the United States to hold indefinitely any action on Section 2109 (long-term legal residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) of S.744 and similar legislation which will allow thousands of alien workers, their families, and persons of other ethnic origin or race who are in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to become U.S. permanent residents and subsequently become U.S. citizen[s]. Section 2109 violate[s] the spirit and sanctity of the Covenant which established a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America."

To the 13 individuals who voted in favor of this resolution, shame on you. Reps. Felicidad Ogumoro, Ralph Demapan, Antonio Agulto, Antonio Benavente, Roman Benavente, Trenton Conner, Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, Christopher Leon Guerrero, Janet Maratita, John Paul Sablan, Teresita Santos, Mario Taitano, and Ray Tebuteb, you should all be ashamed of yourselves for having adopted what I consider to be one of the most racist products of our Legislature to date. If you do not consider the resolution you adopted to be a racist one, then I will posit that either: A) you don't see it as racist because what is contained in the resolution is actually what you think, and you yourselves are racist (and therefore are unable to see anything wrong with the resolution), or B) you don't see it as racist because you didn't actually read what you voted in favor of. Either way, both options tell me that you are not qualified to hold the position that you currently hold; the former because you are supposed to be representing the residents of our Commonwealth, the majority of whom are not racist, and the latter because I am fairly certain that the residents of the Commonwealth would not like to have people representing them and passing laws and resolutions in their name

who have not actually read said laws and resolutions before voting on them. Whichever of the two options is true, the bottom line is that in adopting this resolution, you most certainly are not acting as the representatives of the people of the CNMI that you are supposed to be, as members of the House of Representatives.

Some of you reading this now may be asking, "How is the resolution racist?" The whole resolution is very anti-foreigner from the start, with the words "alien workers, their families, and persons of other ethnic origin or race" being used in the introduction to the resolution with the context of wanting to prevent said groups of people from gaining U.S. permanent residency. This same set of words is used eight times throughout the entire resolution, each time trying to paint these people as villains who are trying to screw up the established order of things or take rights away from the Chamorro and Carolinian people. Those of you who know at least one foreign worker—and I'd imagine that's just about everyone in our Commonwealth—know that the foreign workers are trying to do no such thing. They do not seek to take away anyone's rights, they only seek to gain equal footing with the people whose economy and infrastructure they worked hard to help build over the past few decades. Is it too much to ask to be considered equals and be granted equal status, considering the countless hours that our brothers and sisters have worked toward building our economy and infrastructure over the past few decades? These people have toiled away for the benefit of our Commonwealth for many years, and at times many of them have even been subjected to labor abuses, but they still stuck with us and helped us grow through the years. However, instead of thanking them for their irreplaceable service to us and our islands, now members of our own House of Representatives have the audacity to adopt a resolution that asks the U.S. House of Representatives to remove the provision in the comprehensive immigration reform bills that would allow our brothers and sisters to become U.S. permanent residents and eventually U.S. citizens like us? Do our elected representatives have no sense of human decency in them? Are these seemingly heartless, ungrateful people really the people we want to be representing us?

In addition to being overtly racist by explicitly mentioning "persons of other ethnic origin or race" in an unfavorable context numerous times throughout the text, there are a few other items in

the resolution that I would like to address. At the top of the second page of the resolution, what appears to be an abridged quote of Article 1, Section 103 of the Covenant is presented, saying "the right of local self-government and to govern themselves in accordance with a Constitution of their own adoption." Similar words mentioning our people's right to govern ourselves are seen five more times throughout the resolution, making it seem like self-governance is important to the people who voted in favor of adopting HR 18-34. I find it interesting that they only seem to be taking this self-governance thing seriously now that it seems like we are losing more of our local authority as the federal government moves in on us due to our many years of failure in the area of self-governance. If our legislators truly cared about our local self-governance, then why have they (and their predecessors who came and went before them) not taken their role in our local self-governance seriously? "How do you know they aren't taking it seriously," you ask? It's simple, really. If they honestly cared about our right to self-governance, if they truly understood its irreplaceable value and took it as seriously as they make it out to be in HR 18-34, they would not have done such an atrociously incompetent job at it over our short history as a Commonwealth. They would not have squandered this precious opportunity to govern ourselves by establishing and propagating the status quo of corruption that we've had in place for all this time, helping their friends and families out and propping each other up toward their idea of success while the rest of us are left to suffer the consequences of their selfishness and incompetence. They would not have remained silent in the face of such blatant corruption that has pervaded our islands for all this time. No, if they truly cared about our right to self-governance, they would have stood up and spoken out against all the shady business of our government over the years, and they would have stressed the importance of governing ourselves in a just manner. We simply would not be in the position we are in today if our legislators truly cared about our right to local self-governance as much as they make it seem in HR 18-34.






To be continued

Kelvin Rodeo
Glendale, CA

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy becoming partly cloudy Tuesday. Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77

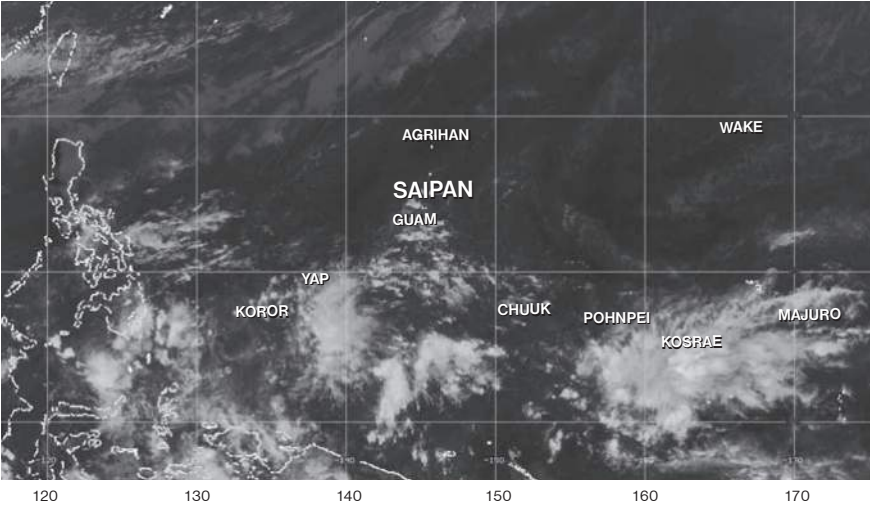
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲53 ▼27
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼68
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼71
London	Showers	▲44 ▼38
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲65 ▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲73 ▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼71
New York	Sunny	▲46 ▼32
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲58 ▼47
Paris	Showers	▲40 ▼34
Pusan	Sunny	▲57 ▼41
Rome	Rain	▲62 ▼52
Salem	Rain	▲46 ▼27
San Francisco	Rain	▲62 ▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲48 ▼32
Tokyo	Sunny	▲60 ▼41
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲50 ▼37

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
10:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N151E to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends northward from 1N143E to 11N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of Yap and Koror within 150 miles of a line from 2N140E to 11N142E. Upper-level divergence is generating widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of the Marianas within 50 miles of a line from 11N143E to 14N147E and within 80 miles of a line from 8N149E to 11N146E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a isolated thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk within 140 miles of a line from 2N143E to 5N151E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over portions of Pohnpei State, Kosrae State and the Marshall Islands within 210 miles of a line from 2N157E to 6N172E and within 80 miles of a line from 5N174E to 8N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:43 PM	9:02 AM
Friday	9:32 PM	9:47 AM
Saturday	10:20 PM	10:30 AM
Sunday	11:08 PM	11:11 AM
Monday	11:56 PM	11:51 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR) DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 OZ2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Blas earns 2013 USS Stennis Leadership Award

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued yesterday the follow statement regarding Navy Commander Nonito V. Blas Jr. earning the 2013 USS Stennis Leadership Award from the Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.

The USS Stennis Leadership Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated superior performance and exhibited the most exceptional leadership skills. The annual award is named after former Mississippi senator John C. Stennis, who served in the U.S. Senate for over 41 years before retiring in 1989. It recognizes an officer or enlisted servicemember who best demonstrates the values and principles of honor, courage, commitment, foresight and integrity.

Blas enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1981 and was commissioned as an officer in March of 1993. He currently serves as the chief engineer aboard the USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74). He is the son of Mangilao Mayor Nonito "Nito" and Mrs. Marcella Blas. CDR Blas and his wife Denise currently reside in Silverdale, Washington.

"I congratulate Commander Nonito Blas Jr. on receiving the 2013 USS Stennis Leadership Award," said Bordallo. "This award is a testament to his exceptional service and leadership in the U.S. Navy. I commend him for his dedicated service to our country, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors." (PR)



Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo meets with Commander Nonito Blas Jr. and his wife Denise in her Washington, D.C. office. Blas is the 2013 recipient of the USS Stennis Leadership Award.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

23 trained for suicide postvention in Guam

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—On Nov. 15, 2013, a total of 23 counselors, administrators, and other staff from the Guam Department of Education, Guam Community College, Santa Barbara Catholic School, San Vicente Catholic School and St. Anthony Catholic School completed a six-hour suicide postvention training.

Connect is a designated national best practice program developed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness - New Hampshire. This training helps individuals identify and mobilize available suicide prevention resources to reduce the risks of suicide among community members affected by a sudden death.

Monthly *Connect* trainings will be hosted by the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center's Prevention and Training Branch for Education, Law Enforcement and Social Services personnel.

A suicide death can cause devastating impact, from a family to a community. The shock and grief affects friends, co-workers, classmates and others. In July 2013, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center-Prevention and Training branch hosted a training of trainers for the *Connect* Suicide Postvention Training. Eighteen individuals in Guam gained certification as *Connect* trainers, allowing local implementation of three course curriculums for Education, Law Enforcement, and Social Services personnel.

November marked the first of the monthly *Connect* trainings in Guam. On Nov. 15, some 23 counselors, nurses, and administrators completed suicide postvention training, representing various public and private schools in the elementary, middle, high school and college level. GDOE's Office for Student Support Services was also represented. The training team included Southern High School

counselor Carmen Garrido, FBLG Middle School counselor Mary Bais and GCC program specialist John Payne.

"We are grateful for GDOE's leadership in this training. Participants learned how to coordinate a comprehensive response in the aftermath of a suicide. It is our hope that in the event of a sudden death, they feel more prepared and able to respond to the needs of their students and staff," shared Deborah Duenas, GBHWC's coordinator for the *Connect* training.

Through *Connect*, suicide prevention is integrated into postvention services. GBHWC Prevention and Training supervisor Bobbie Benavente adds: "Losing someone by suicide is a painful experience. For those who survive suicide loss, a reli-

able support system is essential to their grieving and coping. By immediately mobilizing postvention services and resources for these survivors, we decrease the risks that might lead them to thoughts of suicide."

Furthermore, Benavente points out that the training establishes and strengthens the relationship among participants. "We are all resources in our own capacities. Our community will benefit most if we work more cohesively."

The next *Connect* training is scheduled on Dec. 27, 2013, targeted for Social Services providers. Seating is limited. For registration or other information, contact the GBHWC Prevention and Training branch at 477-9079 thru 9083 or visit www.peaceguam.org. (PR)

Bordallo still accepting applications for Service Academy nominations

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) continues to accept applications for a congressional nomination to the U.S. Service Academies. Students interested in attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York; the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, are encouraged to apply. Complete application packets must be received by Bordallo's Guam District Office by Dec. 1, 2013.

Candidates interested in applying for a Service Academy nomination are encouraged to contact the Guam District Office at (671) 477-4272, if they have any questions about the nomination process or need help in completing their application. To download Bordallo's Service Academy Nomination

Application Form, or to learn more about the nomination process, visit Bordallo's website at www.bordallo.house.gov. For more information on individual service academies, visit the websites below:

- U.S. Air Force Academy, <http://www.usafa.af.mil>
- U.S. Military Academy, <http://www.usma.edu>
- U.S. Naval Academy, <http://www.usna.edu>
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, <http://www.usmma.edu>

"I encourage students interested in becoming military officers to apply for an appointment to a U.S. Service Academy," said Bordallo. "A congressional nomination is a key requirement for those applying to the academies, and I continue to accept applications for nominations. I hope that young adults in our community will take advantage of this opportunity to become officers in our armed forces." (PR)

Palau college installs photovoltaic training equipment

On Oct. 16, 2013, Palau Community College was visited by energy specialist William Thorp and civil engineer João P. C. Guimarães. Thorp is the energy specialist in Palau for the North Pacific ACP Renewable Energy and Efficiency Project, a project that assists Pacific islands form reliable and accessible energy sources. He orchestrated the European Union-funded solar panel training that was offered at the college.

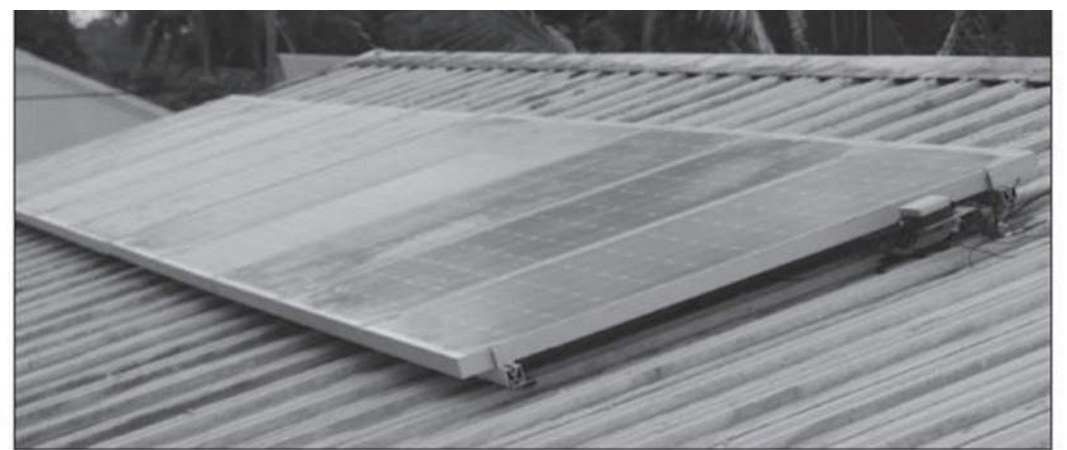
Several PCC instructors, staff, and students recently completed the installation of a 1.7-kilowatt solar array on the roof of the PCC Tekrar Build-

ing. This project was carried out in preparation for the offering of a "PV System Design and Installation" course. This course will be integrated into the regular Electrical Technology Program, and will be a requirement for all ET students.

The installation was led by three PCC instructors who recently participated in the "Grid-Connected PV System Design and Installation" course. They are Joel Yabes, Jerry Taroy, and Frutoso Tellei. They were assisted by air-conditioning instructor Ding Rejano, Maintenance Department electrician Yoshi Okabe, and AC students George

Tun and Randy Alexander.

SPC North-REP, the sponsor of the original solar training, donated the necessary installation equipment to PCC. PCC would like to give a special thanks and recognition to SPC North-REP Palau for initiating the solar panel project as well as making it possible for the college to offer a new course about PV system installation. We are pleased that the college is able to offer this technology to our students at a time when photovoltaic systems are becoming a regular feature of homes, buildings, and other facilities in Palau. (PCC)



The 1.7 KW Solar Array on the roof of the PCC Tekrar Building.



The Solar Array Control & Monitoring Equipment installed inside the Tekrar Building.



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Comforter Set Full/Queen Size
\$29.95



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\$56.95

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Electric Shaver **\$8.95**



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Essential Home
15PC Bath Set **\$19.95**



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Oven **\$54.95**
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Element Buffet Range **\$31.95**



Better Chef 3.7QT
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\$25.95



Cookinex Omelet Maker
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Proctor Silex 10-Cup Coffee Maker
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Hamilton Beach 8-Cup
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Essential Home 14PC Non-Stick
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Fisher Price Grow With Me Trike
\$44.95

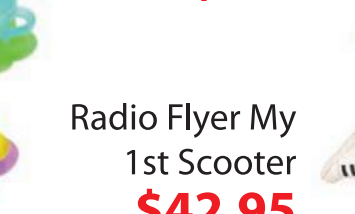


Just Kidz Princess
Laptop **\$17.95**



Just Kidz
Adventure
Vehicle Set
\$10.95

Just Kidz Gourmet
Tea Set **\$5.95**



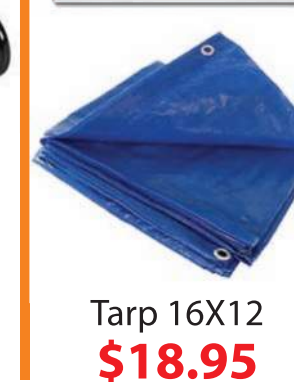
Radio Flyer My
1st Scooter
\$42.95



Just Kidz
Rocking
Cradle
\$19.95



Kenmore
Washing
Machine
\$498.95



Tarp 16X12
\$18.95



Haier 12K BTU Split-Type
Aircon **\$495.95**



Summer Escapes
10ft Metal
Frame Pool
\$149.95

BBQ Pro
Table
Top Grill
\$8.95



Kenmore 30"
Tower Fan
\$31.95



Craftsman Evolv 12amp
Circular Saw **\$69.95**

Garden Elite 100ft Light
Duty Hose **\$18.95**



Hefty 13.3QT Trash Can
with Lid **\$16.95**



Diamond Braid Multi-Purpose
Rope 100FT **\$8.95**



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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

NMI JROTC instructors get cutting-edge curriculum training

The CNMI Public School System Leadership Corps Instructors underwent intensive training on Nov. 12-13, 2013, using the cutting edge National Leadership Corps Interactive Curriculum.

The CNMI Leadership Corps was initiated in 2009 following guidance from Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

LTC (retired) Bob Gay, director of JROTC Army Instruction, met with leaders at the time of the premier Nationally Recognized Leadership Corps program in the U.S. mainland and then implemented the program following collaborative meetings with the PSS leadership team. He returned with their curriculum, which the CNMI PSS used as they launched their own program. This was a great start but the curriculum needed to be updated.

The Leadership Corps Program has been highly successful since its inception, with students from Hopwood, Tinian and Rota junior high schools and Chacha middle school in grades seven and eight participating in this rigorous cadet training. The Leadership Corps Program is modeled after the National JROTC Program.

The goals of the program include:

- Develop leadership and character.
- Create informed, patriotic, and responsible citizens.
- Develop responsible young adults who are physically, mentally, and morally fit.
- Develop informed and civic-minded young adults prepared for higher education.

Gay traveled to Texas this past year to meet with Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeremiah Marshall and Dr. Donna Rice after discovering that a new interactive curriculum was ready to be fielded. Gay was briefed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Standing from left, Leadership Corps instructors Edwin Orilla (DRHIJ/SHS), Michael Berbes, Jocelyn Rabauliman, Leila Towai, Jermaine Catching (HJHS), Roger Thompson (TJHS), George Lieto (Chacha MS). Seated, from left, are LTC Robert Gay, CW4 Jeremiah Marshall, Dr. Donna Rice, Andy Bennett, and SFC Cel Damian.

on the curriculum, received hands-on training and observed classes using it. He returned to the CNMI and recommended acquiring the curriculum to align the CNMI PSS Leadership Corps program with the best in the nation. Sablan approved this venue and coordination was affected to bring out the expert "Training Team" to train our instructors. Training occurred on Nov. 11-12, 2013.

The Training Team consisted of Marshall, Rice, and Andy Bennetts.

Marshall is the recognized national leader of the Leadership Corps Program. He has served as the coordinator of the Fort Worth Independent School

District Leadership Corps for the past 11 years. He hosts National Leadership Corps Symposiums on an annual basis.

Rice served as the director of Education for the National JROTC Program for 25 years prior to her retirement. She developed the national JROTC curriculum. She then moved on to help develop the National Leadership Corps Program while assigned to the Army's Accessions Command. She has been instrumental in leading the team in the development of the new Interactive Curriculum.

Bennetts is program manager of Interactive Learning. He is a lifelong educator and an expert in automation.

The curriculum consists of four content areas plus Leadership Lab: Personal Success and Leadership; Leadership in a Diverse World; Student Leadership; Community Service and Service Learning; and Leadership Lab: Drill, Physical Fitness, Health

The Leadership Learning plan starts with three questions for the cadets: Why is this important? What am I going to learn? How will I be assessed?

The curriculum package consists of automation that includes PowerPoint presentations, Instructor Guides (Lesson Plans), Student Learning Guides, Authentic Learning Activities and support material.

Each classroom instructor receives an Insight 360 Innovation system, which consists of a MOBI Device that allows the teacher to operate the curriculum from anywhere in the classroom. The cadets utilize "clicker technology," which allows them to take a variety of tests interactively that include true/false, multiple choice and yes/ no answers. Each student answers each question via his or her remote "clicker." The instructor and the cadet receive immediate feedback on assessments. The instructor is able to formulate and create any reports he or she desires to interpret and report data.

The technology also includes "Exam View Learning Series," which is a collection of unique, high-quality assessment questions specifically aligned to Common Core

Standards for English, Science and Math. Educators use Exam View Learning Series to stimulate questions commonly found on states' high-stake tests and to supplement standards-based instruction.

Also included in the package is "Peer to Peer" Instruction, which includes videos delivered by students that explain concepts, correct misconceptions and describe how students remember difficult subjects.

Instruction for the CNMI PSS Leadership Corps Instructors' consisted of two intensive days from 7:30am to 5pm. The agenda consisted of Introduction to the National Leadership Corps Program, Orientation to the National Cadet Handbook (Protocol), interactive curriculum, automation overview, and hands-on training, Model Lessons walk-through, Insight 360 (Mobi) Basics, small group teaching and practice, panel discussions, Lesson Presentations, Action Plans, Service Learning foundations and components, and Training Evaluations.

Instructors participating in the training included: Hopwood JHS: Jocelyn Rabauliman, Michael Berbes, Jermaine Catching, and Leila Towai; Cha Cha Middle School: George Lieto and Mollie Atinismom; T JHS: Roger Thompson; and RJ/HS: Edwin Orilla.

Gay stated that the use of this Interactive Curriculum greatly enhances the ability of the instructors' to provide meaningful, long-term learning to the cadets.

Gay said the Leadership Corps instructors were highly motivated during the classes and were excited about using this cutting-edge technology.

Board of Education member Janice Tenorio attended both days of training and presented the history of the CNMI textbooks to the Training Team in appreciation of their commitment to the National and CNMI Leadership Corps Programs. (PR)

CW-1 scam suspect arrested again, this time for alleged TRO violation

Mariano K. Pangelinan, a 70-year-old man who is facing charges in federal court for an alleged CW-1 permit scam, was arrested again over the weekend on charges of violating a temporary restraining order.

Pangelinan was taken to Superior Court Tuesday on charges of disturbing the peace and contempt of court. He is being kept on a \$1,000 cash bail.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki's report states that a police officer responded on Saturday to a call about a domestic case at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

A woman told the responding police officer that she has an active restraining order that prohibits her husband, Pange-

linan, from coming within 200 yards of her and from having any direct or indirect contact with her.

The woman also informed the officer that Pangelinan put baby oil on the handle of the door to her office. Pangelinan allegedly admitted to her that he put the oil in order to "remove some kind of magic from him."

Kintoki said the woman was shaking and appeared to be very frightened in the presence of the suspect.

Pangelinan, who was at the Marianas Business Plaza building, was arrested.

Kintoki said that Pangelinan and the complainant's next TRO hearing will be on Nov. 30, 2013. (Ferdie de la Torre)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, CW4 Jeremiah Marshall, National Leader of the Leadership Corps Program; Andy Bennett, program manager of Interactive Learning; CNMI Board of Education member Janice Tenorio; and Dr. Donna Rice, developer of the National Leadership Corps Curriculum.

Business

How best to erase debt?

By GREGORY KARP
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In the debt-advice business, the most confounding question always seems to be: Which debts should consumers pay off first, ones with the highest interest rates or the smallest amounts?

It evokes debate on the order of Hatfields and McCoys, blue states vs. red states, toilet tissue rolling from over or under. Each side is convinced their way is clearly superior and the key to helping people get out of debt.

People with mathematical minds advise one way—paying off debts with the highest interest rates first. You retire expensive debt first, paying less interest overall as you become debt-free. It, indisputably, will cost you less.

But others advocate eliminating small debts to get them out of the way. Nobody has popularized that method more than get-out-of-debt guru Dave Ramsey on his radio and television shows and in best-selling books.

“The math does need to work, but sometimes motivation is more important than math,” Ramsey said. “Let’s face it: If you were so fabulous with math, you wouldn’t have debt.”

“By paying off debts smallest to largest balance, not interest rate, you have some quick wins, which gets you fired up and keeps you motivated to stick to the plan.”

It’s math vs. motivation.

Here’s what you need to know.

PAY MINIMUMS: Implied in the great debt debate is one important caveat—make minimum payments on all debts so you don’t incur late fees and don’t default on debts, which will harm your credit scores. The question is really, “After paying minimums on all debts, which accounts do I apply extra money toward?”

Also, this assumes you are paying debts yourself and not consolidating them into a single payment with a debt-relief company, and that you’re ultimately able to pay the debts and bankruptcy is not inevitable. It also only addresses consumer debt. Notably absent from the discussion is paying extra toward mortgage debt, which most personal finance experts agree is not as urgent to pay as consumer debt.

HIGHEST INTEREST RATES FIRST: Mathematically, the debate is a no-contest. You will pay less money in interest charges if you retire expensive debt first. But the debate doesn’t end there, because sometimes your highest-interest debt is also your largest. With this method, you could be paying on that debt for a long time, not getting the satisfaction of completely paying off anything in the near term.

SMALLEST DEBTS FIRST: This method is often called a debt snowball because you pay off accounts with small balances first and apply money you would have been paying on those to the next-larger account, always putting more money toward the next-larger debt—a snowball effect.

The benefit is psychological, stemming from the satisfaction of fully paying off accounts. Like losing a few pounds quickly on a diet, it’s encouragement to continue with the discipline. “The debt snowball works because it’s about modifying behavior more than correct mathematics,” Ramsey said.

SNOWBALLING IS INSTINCTUAL: A 2011 academic study showed that’s what people do naturally. They instinctively want to retire more accounts, rather than those with highest interest rates, researchers reported in “Winning the Battle but Losing the War: The Psychology of Debt Management,” published in the Journal of Marketing Research. Authors called the finding “debt account aversion.” “People will pay off the smallest loan first to reduce the total number of outstanding loans and achieve a sense of tangible progress toward debt repayment,” the authors wrote.

That leads to “nonoptimal behavior” and

could keep them in debt longer, the authors contend.

While snowballing is not always a mistake, “our work reveals that debt account aversion can systematically lead consumers astray when larger debts have larger interest rates. Ultimately, debt account aversion might enable consumers to win the battle but lose the war against debt.”

SNOWBALLING SUPPORT: But in a study published last year in the same journal, Northwestern University researchers Blakeley McShane and David Gal went a different way. Instead of conducting experiments, they examined about 6,000 real debtholders who entered a debt-relief program with mostly credit card debt. Many were probably on the verge of personal bankruptcy.

No matter how they looked at the data, they came to the same conclusion: People were more likely to become debt-free if they worked on reducing the number of debt accounts they had, not retiring debt with high interest rates, according to the study, “Can Small Victories Help Win the War?”

“There is this sort of tension: Do we snowball or do we pay off large interest rates first?” McShane said in an interview. “This idea that you need quick wins, and you get pumped up by retiring debt accounts, we find there is some truth to that.”

McShane said the snowball method might not hold for extreme examples—a \$1,000 debt at 200 percent interest and a \$100 debt at 1 percent interest. The high-interest account is so punitive, it makes paying it off the only good choice.

“We’re not trying to say there’s no trade-off between interest rates and size of accounts. At some point, there has to be,” he said.

In general, however, paying off debt accounts is predictive of debt elimination, regardless of balances, he said.

The findings have implications beyond debt, McShane said.

Splitting a goal—even a personal to-do list—into smaller subgoals, and completing some easily achievable ones first, might encourage you to continue toward achieving the big goal. “With any sort of goal you can ask, ‘How can I get a quick win on this?’” he said.

PERSONALITY-BASED: If you’re the type of person who knows for a fact you will pay off all your debts, then paying the highest interest rates first makes the most sense, McShane said. It’s cheaper, and you apparently don’t need the motivation.

But if you’re like most people and uncertain about ever becoming debt-free, using the snowball method to get encouragement seems best, he said.

Gail Cunningham, spokeswoman for the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, said either system can work.

“The question becomes which one will help you stay the course until you reach the finish line,” she said. “If you’re a numbers person, you’ll likely respond well to paying down the largest debt with the highest interest rate first, because you know it’s doing you the most financial damage.”

“However, for a person who needs constant motivation, that system won’t work. It simply takes too long to see significant progress. If you need that good feeling of accomplishment more often, then you’ll be better off power-paying the smallest debt and working your way up the ladder. That way you’ll stay motivated by knowing that you’ve knocked off one debt, and there’s one less statement in your mailbox.”

HYBRID: Is compromise possible among the two warring get-out-of-debt camps? What about paying accounts first that have grossly high interest rates and then snowballing the rest?

Actually, that sounds like a good approach, McShane said, cautioning that he doesn’t have data to back the effectiveness of a hybrid approach.

Nation



In this May 13, 2007 file photo, boys participate in 100 meter race during two-day World Athletics Day meet in Bangalore, India.
AP

Kids less fit than parents were

DALLAS (AP)—Today’s kids can’t keep up with their parents. An analysis of studies on millions of children around the world finds they don’t run as fast or as far as their parents did when they were young.

On average, it takes children 90 seconds longer to run a mile than their counterparts did 30 years ago. Heart-related fitness has declined 5 percent per decade since 1975 for children ages 9 to 17.

The American Heart Association, whose conference featured the research on Tuesday, says it’s the first to show that children’s fitness has declined worldwide over the last three decades.

“It makes sense. We have kids that are less active than before,” said Dr. Stephen Daniels,

a University of Colorado pediatrician and spokesman for the heart association.

Health experts recommend that children 6 and older get 60 minutes of moderately vigorous activity accumulated over a day. Only one-third of American kids do now.

“Kids aren’t getting enough opportunities to build up that activity over the course of the day,” Daniels said. “Many schools, for economic reasons, don’t have any physical education at all. Some rely on recess” to provide exercise.

Sam Kass, a White House chef and head of first lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move program, stressed the role of schools in a speech to the conference on Monday.

“We are currently facing the

most sedentary generation of children in our history,” Kass said.

The new study was led by Grant Tomkinson, an exercise physiologist at the University of South Australia. Researchers analyzed 50 studies on running fitness—a key measure of cardiovascular health and endurance—involving 25 million children ages 9 to 17 in 28 countries from 1964 to 2010.

The studies measured how far children could run in 5 to 15 minutes and how quickly they ran a certain distance, ranging from half a mile to two miles. Today’s kids are about 15 percent less fit than their parents were, researchers concluded.

“The changes are very similar for boys and girls and also for various ages,” but differed by geographic region, Tomkinson said.

Va. senator stabbed; son dies of apparent suicide

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—Virginia state Sen. Creigh Deeds, a Democrat who rose to be gubernatorial nominee in 2009 despite his reserved demeanor and humble farmland roots, was stabbed early Tuesday, apparently by his son, police said.

Gus Deeds, 24, was found at his father’s house in rural western Virginia, dead from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound, authorities said.

Authorities were still piecing together a motive and the circumstances that led up to the stabbing, but “we’re leaning

towards it being an attempted murder/suicide,” Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corrine Geller said at an afternoon news conference. She said that finding wasn’t yet definitive.

Creigh (pronounced kree) Deeds, 55, and his son were the only people at the home Tuesday morning. Police were not looking for a suspect.

Deeds was able to walk about 75 yards away from his home in Millboro, despite stab wounds in his head and chest, police said. He was in fair condition at a hospital.

Police recovered a gun at the home, but Geller would not provide details about it. She also wouldn’t say what the senator was stabbed with.

She said police have been able to talk with the senator, but wouldn’t reveal what he has said.

Deeds made his first bid for statewide office in 2005 when he ran for attorney general and narrowly lost to Bob McDonnell in the general election. Four years later, McDonnell beat Deeds again—this time in the race for governor—though it was by a much wider margin.

Colo. teen gets life for kidnapping, killing girl

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)—A psychologist described him as sadistic, and prosecutors said he methodically killed and dismembered the 10-year-old girl he grabbed on her way to school.

But lawyers for Austin Sigg said Tuesday the 18-year-old was still a child himself, he might have suffered trauma before and during birth, and he had anxiety, a learning disability and

an emotionally distant mother.

Judge Stephen Munsinger rejected that image and the defense argument that Sigg should be eligible for parole in 40 years. He instead ordered the teen to serve a life sentence for killing Jessica Ridgeway plus 86 years for other offenses, including sexually assaulting her and trying to attack a jogger a few months before. The sentence ensured Sigg

will never be released.

Jessica’s disappearance last fall put the Denver suburbs on edge as police, aided by an army of volunteers, searched for her and then her killer. While people now know how Jessica was killed, Munsinger said they might never know why.

“Evil is apparently real,” he said. “It was present in our community on Oct. 5, 2012. Its name was Austin Sigg.”

Asia



People march in the rain Tacloban, Philippines during a procession to call for courage and resilience among their Typhoon Haiyan survivors on Tuesday Nov. 19, 2013. AP

Typhoon survivors rally city: 'WE SHALL OVERCOME'

TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP)—A Roman Catholic priest led dozens of displaced typhoon survivors on a march through this shattered city on Tuesday, seeking to boost its spirits.

The marchers sang "We shall overcome" as they toured parts of Tacloban, at one point skirting some unburied corpses in bags by the roadside.

The Rev. Robert Reyes, an activist priest known for running long distances across country to draw attention to social issues, said the marchers were living in a church and a sports stadium.

"This is not an ordinary march. We call it the walk to overcome,"

said Reyes. "This is part of what we call psycho-social therapy where you listen to the victims of the disaster but you also make them believe that they can actually heal themselves."

Typhoon Haiyan cut a path across eastern and central Philippines on Nov. 8, with some of fastest wind speeds on record. It killed or has left missing more than 5,000 people and displaced an estimated 4 million people. A major international relief mission is underway to help the survivors, many of whom will be dependent on aid for months to come.

The airport in Tacloban,

which was almost entirely destroyed in the storm, has emerged as relief hub, with scores of aid flights arriving each day carrying food, water, medicine, generators and heavy lifting equipment. The pace has picked up markedly in recent days compared to the chaos in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

"It looks completely different to when I came in last week," said Valerie Amos, the United Nations' humanitarian chief. "I'm really delighted that so much progress has been made, so much more aid is going out, and the people are getting the vital supplies that they need."

3 wounded in bomb blast in Nepal election violence

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A homemade bomb exploded outside a polling station in Nepal's capital Tuesday, as sporadic violence cast a pall over national elections aimed at ending years of political deadlock. Three people were injured in the blast, including an 8-year-old boy who was seriously wounded.

Nepalis went to the polls to choose a special assembly to draw up a long-delayed constitution, a step toward stability in a nation still reeling from a

10-year communist revolt and the overthrow of a centuries-old monarchy.

Chief election commissioner Nil Kantha Upreti said voter turnout was more than 70 percent, the largest in the nation's history.

But there are signs that the beleaguered Himalayan nation of 27 million could see more of the same dysfunction in coming months, a depressing prospect for citizens already struggling with daily power cuts,

fuel shortages and poverty.

Opposition activists who do not recognize Nepal's interim government vowed to disrupt the polls, and at least 30 people were wounded in small bomb blasts and other violence in the run-up to the election.

On Tuesday, a crude bomb went off after voters lined up to cast their ballots at a busy polling station in the heart of Katmandu, seriously wounding the boy, police official Hemant Pal said.

Bangladesh police clash with garment workers

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police said they fired rubber bullets and tear gas Tuesday to disperse thousands of garment workers who rampaged through industrial towns in Bangladesh to protest the killing of two factory workers during a demonstration for higher wages.

At least 30 people were injured in the violence, said police official Mohammad Nazrul Islam. The two factory workers died earlier Tuesday, a day after they were seriously wounded

by rubber bullets fired by police outside the capital, Dhaka.

Garment workers in Bangladesh have been protesting since last month to press for a wage hike.

In the latest violence, security forces fired rubber bullets and tear gas to stop angry workers from vandalizing factories, Islam said.

The workers also set up roadblocks with burned tires and abandoned vehicles, disrupting traffic in the industrial towns of

Gazipur and Ashulia, outside of Dhaka. A protest leader, Delwar Hossain, said the workers were demonstrating peacefully and were attacked by police "without provocation."

Since the protests began in October, the government has deployed paramilitary border guards to boost security in Gazipur, a hub of several hundred garment factories.

Police said about 50 garment factories shut down for the day Tuesday because of the protests.

World

Suicide bombings at Iran Embassy in Beirut kill 23



Lebanese men remove a dead body from a burned car, at the scene where two explosions have struck near the Iranian Embassy killing many, in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday Nov. 19, 2013. AP

BEIRUT (AP)—Suicide bombers struck the Iranian Embassy on Tuesday, killing 23 people, including a diplomat, and wounding more than 140 others in a "message of blood and death" to Tehran and Hezbollah—both supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The double bombing in a Shiite district of Beirut pulled Lebanon further into a conflict that has torn apart the deeply divided country, and came as Assad's troops, aided by Hezbollah militants, captured a key town near the Lebanese border from rebels.

The bombing was one of the deadliest in a series of attacks targeting Hezbollah and Shiite strongholds in Lebanon in recent months.

An al-Qaida-linked group

said it carried out the attack as payback for Hezbollah's backing of Assad forces against the mainly Sunni rebels as the Syrian civil war increasingly becomes a confrontation between regional powers.

The Syrian army's border offensive is part of a larger government push that started last month and has seen forces loyal to Assad firmly seizing the momentum in the war, taking one rebel stronghold after another.

The attacks raised fears in Lebanon that Islamic extremists, now on the defensive in Syria, would increasingly hit back in Lebanon. The country is suffering the effects of competing sectarian loyalties.

"People fight outside (Lebanon), but send their messages through Lebanon. With

bombs," said a mechanic whose store windows were shattered by the blasts.

The midmorning explosions hit the neighborhood of Janah, a Hezbollah stronghold and home to several embassies and upscale apartments, leaving bodies and pools of blood on the glass-strewn street amid burning cars.

In the chaotic aftermath, volunteers tried to extinguish bodies still aflame from the blast by covering them with their sweaters and blankets.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the attacks and called on all Lebanese to recognize that "such appalling and indiscriminate acts of violence" target everyone in the country, U.N. acting deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

Vatican unveils new frescoes in top catacomb



A fresco adorns the Catacombs of Priscilla, a labyrinthine cemetery complex that stretches for kilometers underground, in Rome, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013. AP

ROME (AP)—The Vatican on Tuesday unveiled newly restored frescoes in the Catacombs of Priscilla, known for housing the earliest known image of the Madonna with Child—and frescoes said by some to show women priests

in the early Christian church.

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, the Vatican's culture minister, presided over the opening of the "Cubicle of Lazzaro," a tiny burial chamber featuring 4th century images of biblical scenes, the Apostles Peter and

Paul, and one of the early Romans buried there in bunk-bed-like stacks as was common in antiquity.

The labyrinthine cemetery complex stretching for kilometers (miles) underneath northern Rome is known as the "Queen of the catacombs" because it features burial chambers of popes and a tiny, delicate fresco of the Madonna nursing Jesus dating from around 230-240 A.D., the earliest known image of the Madonna and Child.

More controversially, the catacomb tour features two scenes said by proponents of the women's ordination movement to show women priests: One in the ochre-hued Greek Chapel features a group of women celebrating a banquet, said to be the banquet of the Eucharist.

Environment

Ivory seizures swell hidden HK cache

HONG KONG (AP)—When Hong Kong intercepted yet another huge shipment of illegal African ivory in early October, it added to a growing headache for authorities: What exactly do you do with one of the world's biggest stockpiles of elephant tusks?

Government warehouses in the former British colony are holding more than 30 metric tons of ivory seized since 2008, as customs agents intercept a surging amount of endangered animal products being smuggled to mainland China to meet demand from the country's newly wealthy.

The latest shipment, 189 tusks worth \$1.5 million hidden in soybean sacks in a shipping container, was one of four major busts this year.

Ivory is known as "white gold" because of the rich prices it commands on the black market. Hong Kong has put values of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a kilogram on ivory it seized this year. A 2011 report by the International Fund for Animal Welfare said buyers in China were paying up to \$2,400 a kilogram.

Conservation groups, worried the ivory pile presents a target for theft and fails to send a signal that Hong Kong is serious about cracking down on the trade, urge the government to destroy it. Authorities are resisting, instead preferring to dole out small amounts to schools to raise conservation awareness.

"As long as that ivory is kept anywhere, it will always be a temptation for people to get their hands on it," said Grace Ge Gabriel, the fund's regional director.

IFAW and 15 other animal welfare and conservation groups wrote to Hong Kong's leader and customs commis-

In this Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013 photo, elephant tusks are displayed after being confiscated by the Customs in Hong Kong. AP

sioner after the October seizure, urging them to follow the example of countries that destroy confiscated ivory.

Because the ivory trade is illegal, its size worldwide is hard to pin down. Samuel K. Wasser, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington, calculated it was worth \$264 million from 2000-2010. He said the amount now is likely to be far higher based on the soaring amount confiscated globally.

IFAW estimates 35,000 elephants a year are killed by poachers for ivory, risking extinction of the animal in the wild.

Demand is fuelled by China's booming economy, which has created a vast middle class with the ability to buy ivory carvings prized as status symbols.

"The Chinese market remains the paramount destination for illicit ivory," according to a report this year by the U.N., the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC. It said China's involvement has been growing since 1996 despite "increasing levels of law enforcement."

In their letter, the groups pointed to "high profile ivory destruction measures" over the years. Kenya held the world's first large ivory bonfire in 1989, torching 12 tons in an event that drew international attention and helped lead to a global ban the following year on ivory sales between countries. Zambia set fire to 9.5 tons in 1992 and Gabon burned nearly 5 tons in 2012.

UN chief: Current climate pledges are not enough

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday urged governments to put forth more ambitious plans to cut carbon emissions, saying "current pledges are simply inadequate."

Speaking to a U.N. climate conference in Warsaw, Ban said countries need to "set the bar higher" as they negotiate a new global climate agreement that is supposed to be adopted in Paris in 2015.

He asked countries to bring announcements on climate action to a special summit of world leaders in New York next September.

"From then on we will have only one year left before we meet in Paris. We do not have much time to waste," Ban told reporters later Tuesday.

Negotiators are trying to lay

the groundwork for the 2015 agreement at the two-week conference, which is set to end Friday. The deal, which would take effect in 2020, is supposed to be applicable to all nations, not just the developed countries that were covered by the Kyoto emissions pact.

But key details remain to be worked out, including the legal status of the new agreement and how to address the different expectations on poor and rich countries that have been a guiding principle of the two-decade talks so far.

Countries also have different views on when to present their national targets for emissions cuts, with the European Union saying offers should be announced at Ban's summit and the U.S. suggesting early 2015 would make sense.



DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of His New Life

Franz Benjamin Reksid

Born to life on August 4, 1940 and called to his eternal life on November 16, 2013

Survived by:

Wife:

Children:

Peding C. Sanchez
Franklin M. Reksid & Family
†Jeanne Reksid San Nicolas (Christopher)
Tina C. & Eddie Villanueva (Kalei (Jaedyn), Franklin, & EJ)
Daniel Camacho & Roxanne Diaz (Keona, Kelvin, Kesil, & Daniel)
Julie C. & RayAnthony Cabrera (Dylan, Devyn, & Keyannah)
Pamela C. & Victor Cruz (Kiani & Eric)
Glenn Camacho & Delma Dela Cruz (Edelsha, Christopher, Kailana, & Calvin)

Brothers, Sisters, & In-Laws:

Walter Benjamin & Family
Desum Ngirakesau & Family
Tosko Ignacio & Ignacio Sadang & Family
Marylou Franklin

Predeceased by:

Father:

Mother:

Father In-Law:

Mother In-Law:

Mother In-Law:

Daughter:

Brother:

Reksid Obekelou
Bubeu Irbai
Nicolas Aguon Sanchez
Josepha Cepeda Sanchez
Juliana Aguon Sanchez
Jeanne Reksid San Nicolas
Benjamin Franklin

Mass is being said daily at 6:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Funeral is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, 2013. Public viewing will be held at 8:00 a.m. and the mass of Christian burial will be at 11:00 a.m. at our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by interment and burial at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'asi' and Thank you

Peding C. Sanchez, Children & Family



Life & Style

Gettysburg Address: A short speech long remembered

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP)—In solemnity, thousands of people gathered at a central Pennsylvania battlefield park Tuesday to honor a speech given 150 years ago that President Abraham Lincoln predicted would not be long remembered.

The inspirational and famously short Gettysburg Address was praised for reinvigorating national ideals of freedom, liberty and justice amid a Civil War that had torn the country into pieces.

“President Lincoln sought to heal a nation’s wounds by defining what a nation should be,” said Gov. Tom Corbett, calling Lincoln’s words superb, his faith deep and his genius profound. “Lincoln wrote his words on paper, but he also inscribed them in our hearts.”

Echoing Lincoln, keynote speaker and Civil War historian James McPherson said the president took the dais in November 1863 when it looked as though the nation “might indeed perish from the earth.”

“The Battle of Gettysburg became the hinge of fate on which turned the destiny of that nation and its new birth of freedom,” McPherson said.

In the July 1863 battle, considered the turning point of the war, Union forces fought back a Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania. Lincoln’s speech was delivered more than four months later, at the dedication of a national cemetery to bury the battle’s casualties.

In the short oration, he spoke of how democracy itself rested upon “the proposition that all men are created equal,” a profound and politically risky statement for the



James Getty, portraying President Abraham Lincoln, stands before a ceremony commemorating the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery and President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Tuesday Nov. 19, 2013, in Gettysburg, Pa.

time. Slavery and the doctrine of states' rights would not hold in the “more perfect union” of Lincoln’s vision.

“In 272 words, he put together what everyone was thinking, what everyone should know,” said park historian John Heiser.

Because of varying transcriptions, scholars generally put the text at 268 to 272 words.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia administered the oath of allegiance to a group of 16 immigrants, telling them the national identity is unique, il-

lustrated by the existence of the word “un-American” and by the people’s “fidelity to certain political principles.”

President Barack Obama, in a 272-word handwritten essay released by the White House, connected the legacy of Lincoln’s

address to gay rights, women’s rights and modern technological transformations.

“Lincoln’s words give us confidence that whatever trials await us, this nation and the freedom we cherish can, and shall, prevail,” he wrote.

Greta Myer, 44, decided to make the six-hour trip from Akron, Ohio, with her husband and son after spending a week in Gettysburg earlier in the year.

“It’s something we’ve never done before,” Myer said. “It was a historical event that we wanted to be a part of.”

Among many re-enactors on the grounds were at least two Abraham Lincolns, including one who recited the address.

“Lincoln would have been surprised by the reverence accorded to him by future generations,” McPherson said, noting Lincoln held in high regard the country’s founders.

“Would they preserve that heritage, or would they allow it to perish from the earth?” McPherson said.

He said the Gettysburg Address, despite its short length, weaved together themes of past, present and future; continent,

nation and battlefield; and birth, death and rebirth.

“Men died that the nation might live,” McPherson said. “Yet the old nation also died,” and with it, the system of bondage that enslaved some 4 million Americans.

Part of the event was a speech delivered by suburban Philadelphia high school junior Lauren Pyfer, who won a contest to write a contemporary version of the Gettysburg Address but at the same short length.

She urged the crowd to do its part to “nurture and preserve the rights of humanity, equality and freedom, across all nations.”

“It is impossible for one country to close its doors to other countries and still thrive,” Pyfer said.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who also adopted Lincolnian brevity, said the Gettysburg battle stands at the vortex of American history and the Gettysburg Address at the vortex of national consciousness.

Lincoln, she said, called the country to its unfinished business and came to symbolize the country’s “greatest virtues of humility, of honesty and decency.”

What did Narcissus say to Instagram? Selfie time!

Editor's Note: Britain's Oxford University Press declared "selfie" word of the year for 2013. Here is the AP's take on the phenomenon, first published in June.

NEW YORK (AP)—In these hyper-connected, over-shared times dwell two kinds of people: those preoccupied with taking and uploading photos of themselves and those who have never heard of the selfie.

The raunchy, goofy, poignant, sexy or drunken self-portrait has been a common sight since phone camera met social media. Now, nearly a decade since the arm-extended or in-the-mirror photos became a mainstay of MySpace—duck face or otherwise—selfies are a pastime across generations and cultures.

Justin Bieber puts up plenty with his shirt off and Rihanna poses for sultry snaps, but a beaming Hillary Clinton recently took a turn with daughter Chelsea, who tweeted their happy first attempt with the hashtag (hash)ProudDaughter.

Two other famous daughters, Sasha and Malia Obama, selfied at dad’s second inauguration, pulling faces in front of a smartphone. And Japanese astronaut Aki Hoshide earned a spot in the Selfie Hall of Fame with a striking, other-worldly shot, arms extended as reflected in his helmet outside the International Space Station last year.

“It just comes so naturally after a point,” said Elizabeth Zamora, a 24-year-old marketing account coordinator in Dallas who has taken hundreds of selfies since she got her first iPhone two years ago, with the front-facing camera that has become the selfie gold standard.

“You just take it and you don’t even realize it and then you’re sharing it with all your friends,” she said. “I try not to go crazy.”

If we’re not taking them, we’re certainly looking, regardless of whether we know what they’re called. We’re lurking on the selfies of our teens, enjoying the hijinx of co-workers and friends and mooning over celebrities, who have fast learned the marketing value—and scandalous dangers—of capturing their more intimate, unpolished selves.

The practice of freezing and sharing our thinnest slices of life has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term selfie as a possible addition.

Time magazine included the selfie in its Top 10 buzzwords of 2012 (at No. 9) and New York magazine’s The Cut blog declared in April: “Ugly Is the New Pretty: How Unattractive Selfies Took Over the Internet.”

On Instagram alone, there’s (hash)selfiesunday, along with related tags where millions of selfies land daily. More than 23 million photos have been

uploaded to the app with the tag (hash)selfie and about 70 million photos clog Instagram’s (hash)me.

What are we to make of all this navel-gazing (sometimes literally)? Are selfies, by definition, culturally dangerous? Offensive? An indicator of moral decline?

Beverly Hills, Calif., psychiatrist Carole Lieberman sees narcissism with a capital N. “The rise of the selfie is a perfect metaphor for our increasingly narcissistic culture. We’re desperately crying out: Look at me!”

But Pamela Rutledge doesn’t see it that way. The director of the nonprofit Media Psychology Research Center, which explores how humans interact with technology, sees the selfie as democratizing the once-snooty practice of self-portraiture, a tradition that long predates Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

She sees some key differences between selfies and self-portraits of yore. Unlike painted portraiture, selfies are easily deletable. And “bad or funny is good in a way that wasn’t the case when people had to pay for film to be developed,” or for a professional painter, she said.

“Albrecht Durer’s self-portraiture is these incredible self-reflections and explorations of technique, and then when Rihanna snaps her picture it’s just self-aggrandizement, or it’s pro-

motion, so you have a fairly interesting double standard based upon who’s taking the self-portrait,” said Rutledge, in Boston.

In selfies, we can be famous and in control of our own images and storylines. As for the young, the more authority figures—parents, teachers—dislike them and “declare them a sign of a self-obsessed, narcissistic generation, the more desirable they become,” she said.

The word selfie in itself carries multiple connotations, Rutledge observes. “The ‘ie’ at the end makes selfie a diminutive, implying some affection and familiarity.” From a semantic’s perspective, the selfie is a “little self”—a small, friendly bit of the self, she said.

There’s a sense of immediacy and temporariness. “Granted, little is really temporary on the Internet, but it is more that by definition. Transient, soon to be upstaged by the next one,” Rutledge said.

Self-portraits tagged as ‘selfie’ first surfaced on Flickr, a photo-sharing site, and on MySpace in 2004, Rutledge said. The earliest reference in UrbanDictionary was to “selfy” in 2005.

In historical terms, elites in Ancient Egypt were fond of self-portraits, Rutledge said. And then there was the mirror, invented in the 15th century and allowing artists like the prolific Durer in Germany to have at it

in more meaningful detail.

While the self-involved Narcissus stared at his reflection in a pond in Greek mythology, it was the mirror that “really was the first piece of technology where an artist could see his own image long enough to paint it, other than just painting self-impressions,” Rutledge said.

Fast forward to the 1860s and the advent of cameras, launching a new round of selfies, though they took considerable skill and expense.

Leap with us once again to 2010 and the launch of Instagram, and on to 2012, when 86 percent of the U.S. population had a cell phone, bringing on the cheaper selfie as social media and mobile Internet access spread.

“What’s most interesting to me is how we’re trying to grapple with what it means,” Rutledge said. “We know what it means when we see somebody’s picture of their kid holding a soccer ball. We’re OK with that. And we know what it means to have a portrait in a high school yearbook or of a real estate agent on a business card. We know how to think about all of those things, but we don’t know how to think about this mass production of self-reflection.”

Is it possible the selfie doesn’t mean anything at all?

“In the era of the Kardashians, everyone has become their own paparazzi,” mused Rachel Weingarten, a personal-brand consultant in New York.

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800 PM

HUNGER GAMES DOUBLE FEATURE [DV] (PG-13)
515 PM

THOR: THE DARK WORLD [CC,DV] (PG-13)
(400 PM)

THE BEST MAN HOLIDAY [CC,DV] (R)
(425 PM) 720 PM

THOR: THE DARK WORLD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)
700 PM

ENDER'S GAME [CC,DV] (PG-13)
(420 PM)

FREE BIRDS [CC] (PG)
705 PM

FREE BIRDS 3D [CC] (PG)
(430 PM)

JACKASS PRESENTS: BAD GRANDPA [CC,DV] (R)
(515 PM)

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS [CC,DV] (PG-13)
(410 PM) 710 PM

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Adam Levine named People's 'sexiest man alive'

Fergie, Duhamel make beautiful baby music together

NEW YORK (AP)—Fergie and her husband, Josh Duhamel, are writing songs together, but they're for an audience of one: their son, Axl.

"We have own little home-written songs," Fergie said in an interview Monday, noting their 3-month-old loves their "little ditties."

"We harmonize and we sing together," the Black Eyed Peas songstress said before singing part of one tune that began with "Baby you're my baby" and adding: "We can be quite corny."

She usually sings "Silent Night" to put Axl to sleep because it "sounds like a lullaby."

Fergie also said she and Duhamel play Rockabye Baby! CDs with music from artists like Bob Marley and Led Zeppelin and "mommy's rap music" from artists like Kendrick Lamar.

Mexican president denies meeting Justin Bieber

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's president has denied a tweet by Justin Bieber saying the singer met with the president and his family prior to a show.

It was the latest sour note in Bieber's controversy-filled Latin American tour.

President Enrique Pena Nieto's office put out a tweet late Monday that read "(at)Presidenciamx denies meeting between President (at)EPN with the singer (at)justinbieber."

That was a response to a tweet from Bieber's official account saying "just met some amazing mexican believers and the presidente of mexico and his familia."

Apparently, Bieber was confused about whether the president was there or not.

Early Tuesday, Bieber wrote in a tweet, "correction. I met the presidente's family and all their friends in the private meet and greet with all their security. They were very nice."

The 19-year-old pop sensation faces two criminal complaints and demands for refunds in Argentina, in addition to trouble with police for allegedly spraying graffiti in Brazil.

Bieber angered Argentines by abandoning a concert after less than an hour and not showing up for a photo-op that some fans paid hundreds of dollars extra for.

NEW YORK (AP)—People has spoken and its named Adam Levine the "sexiest man alive" of 2013, the magazine announced Tuesday.

The 34-year-old is the lead singer of the group Maroon 5 and a judge on NBC's "The Voice."

He's also not romantically available. Levine got engaged to Victoria's Secret model Behati Prinsloo (bay-AHT'-ee PRINS'-lo) earlier this year.

In a 2012 interview with The Associated Press, the musician described himself as "nerdy" in high school but admitted he

"did OK" with girls.

Levine takes the "sexiest" crown from actor Channing Tatum. He joins the ranks of Bradley Cooper, Ryan Reynolds, Brad Pitt and George Clooney, who all have received the honor.

The annual "sexiest man alive" issue of People magazine hits newsstands on Friday.

In this Feb. 7, 2013 file photo, recording artist Adam Levine attends the launch of "Adam Levine Signature Fragrances" at Macy's Westfield Century City, in Century City, Calif. AP



Kelly Clarkson announces pregnancy on Twitter

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Kelly Clarkson says she's expecting her first child.

The 31-year-old singer said Tuesday on Twitter that she and husband Brandon Blackstock are expecting their first child together.

The original "American Idol"

champion says in her tweet that the baby is the "best early Christmas present ever."

Clarkson's publicist, Mika El-Baz, later confirmed the information.

Clarkson and Blackstock were married last month. Blackstock is

the son of Clarkson's manager, Narvel Blackstock, and the stepson of Reba McEntire. He manages country star and close Clarkson friend Blake Shelton.

Blackstock has two children from a previous marriage. No word on when the baby is due.



In this Jan. 21, 2013 file photo, Kelly Clarkson arrives with Brandon Blackstock for the ceremonial swearing-in of President Barack Obama at the U.S. Capitol during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington. AP

Elvis Presley's intellectual property rights sold

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The money-making enterprise called Elvis Presley has been sold.

Authentic Brands Group said Tuesday it has bought Elvis Presley's intellectual property from CORE Media Group and is partnering with the founder of another company to operate the Graceland tourist attraction.

The purchase gives Authentic Brands control of Elvis Presley Enterprises, which manages the licensing and merchandising rights to Presley's image, name and likeness, in addition to a massive collection of music, photos, movies, television appearances and performance specials featuring the King of Rock 'n' Roll.

As part of the deal, National Entertainment Collectibles Association founder Joel Weinshanker acquires Graceland's operating rights, according to a statement announcing the sale. Weinshanker, Authentic Brands and the Presley family will partner in

operating Graceland, it added.

A purchase price wasn't disclosed. Also known as ABG, Authentic Brands Group is a New York-based intellectual property corporation that manages brands including Marilyn Monroe and Muhammad Ali.

"This is an exciting day for Elvis and his fans," Priscilla Presley, the singer's former wife, said in a statement. "We look forward to working with the ABG team to further promote the legacy of Elvis. This is the opportunity the family has been envisioning to expand the Graceland experience and enhance Elvis' image all over the world."

Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie Presley, says she will continue to own the Graceland home and the original items inside it.

"The licensing and merchandising aspect of this business is not to be confused with the fact that the property will always remain with me and my family," Lisa Marie Presley said.

Elvis Presley died at age 42 in Memphis on Aug. 16, 1977.

The Graceland home opened for tours on June 7, 1982. Presley-related exhibits, restaurants and gift shops selling clothing and memorabilia are located across the street from the home. More than 500,000 people visit Graceland each year, bringing in millions in tourist revenue for its owner and the city.

Elvis Presley Enterprises runs a worldwide merchandising and licensing business that keeps Elvis' legend strong. In 2012, Elvis Presley Enterprises CEO Jack Soden said the licensing business generated about \$32 million a year in revenue.

Plans to refurbish and modernize the tourist attraction had been put on hold, but they could be renewed now that the sale is complete. Priscilla and Lisa Marie Presley both mentioned a possible expansion of Graceland in their statements Tuesday.

Wife feels violated after being awakened by husband's touch

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I love my husband very much. Until the last few years there have never been any problems in our 20-year marriage. I have depression and epilepsy, and I am on five different medications for them.

Sometimes when I have come out of a seizure, I have found that my clothes have been removed and my husband is "touching" me. Also, because the medication puts me into a deep sleep at night, I have half-awakened to him having sex with me. I am so groggy I can't respond. Is this right? I feel like I have been violated, but I haven't said anything to him. This causes me to cringe most of the time when he touches me now.

I'd like to get back to a normal love life, but I can't get over what he does to me when I'm not fully aware. How do I tell him I know what he has been doing without ruining my marriage?

FEELING VIOLATED IN RIO RANCHO, N.M.

DEAR FEELING VIOLATED: You feel violated because what your husband is doing is called spousal rape, and it's a criminal offense. Having sex with someone who is so doped up she (or he) can't give consent is a sexual assault. Tell your husband you know what he has been doing, how you feel about it and that you would prefer that the two of you make love while you are wide awake and able to fully enjoy it. This should be discussed with a marriage counselor and, if necessary, the police.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a married father of two very young children (2 and 6 months). I have excessive student loan debt that is making my life extremely tough, and between that, day care and my mortgage, I'm on the brink of bankruptcy.

My mother is extremely wealthy. She is very involved with my family and we both do things to help each other out. I mow the grass in her large yard every week.

She sees me struggling, yet she makes no offer to help financially. I am becoming resentful about it. If she helped, it would not change her lifestyle at all. My wife's family is the opposite. Her parents aren't wealthy, but they have done everything within their power to help their children. I know how I will treat MY kids.

Am I wrong to feel resentment because my mother has decided differently? Or should I just "grow up"?

FRUSTRATED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: If you have discussed with your mother that you are under extreme financial pressure and she has refused to help, then I can see why you might feel some resentment. My question is, HAVE you talked to her about it? That would be the "grown-up" thing to do. The worst she can say is no. If she does, what you will need to do is take a part-time job to help with the bills—even if it means you mow your mother's lawn less often.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Next month will be our 25th anniversary. My wife and I are permanently separated, but will not divorce because she would lose health coverage under my employer's plan. How do I acknowledge this "landmark"—or should I just ignore it, since it isn't really a celebratory event?

NOT QUITE AN EX IN THE SOUTH

DEAR NOT QUITE AN EX: If you and your wife are on speaking terms, call her and say something nice. Or send her a card. If you're not on friendly terms, then diplomatically ignore the landmark.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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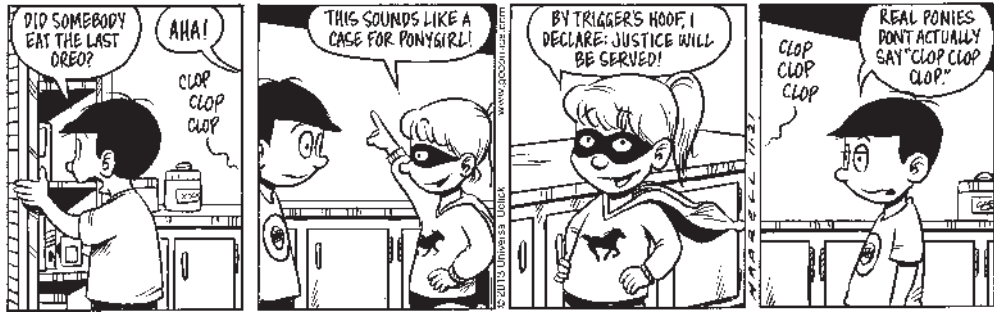


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Carrot companion?

4 Quasi-modo's concern

8 Yuletide refrain

12 Aviv lead-in

13 Writer James

14 Skilled

15 The whole time

17 Tower city

18 Piercing tool

19 Saw

21 Ill will

24 Tit for —

25 Discoverer's cry

26 AAA task

28 Layered rock

32 Fasting period

34 Feathery neck-piece

36 Some-where out there

37 Nerd

DOWN

2 Moray, e.g.

3 Isolated

4 Bolshoi show

5 Swelled head

6 Camera part

7 On the up-and-up

8 Flam-mable

9 Last

10 Besides that

11 Pioneer

16 Shock and —

20 Fuel

21 Auctioneer's call

22 "That was close!"

23 San Francisco's — Hill

27 Stir-fry pan

29 Despite the

30 Secular

31 Formerly

33 Quite wearying

35 Atmosphere

38 Hallow-teen shout

40 Mile High City

43 Work-manship

45 Average guy?

46 Pinnacle

47 Harbor structure

48 Pealed

49 Wading bird

53 Eggs

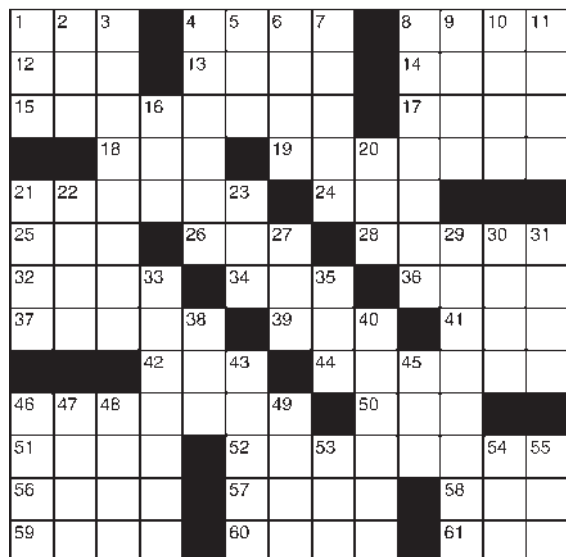
54 Zodiac sign

55 Legisla-tion

Solution time: 25 mins.

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U	K	E	S		M	I	D	D		
O	B	S	T	A	C	L	E		E	U
P	R	O	S	H	A	N	T		M	A
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O	B	A	M	A	C	A	R	E		H
A	U	T	O		T	H	E		E	G
H	Y	E	S		S	A	G	S		M

Yesterday's answer 11-21



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carly Rae Jepsen, 28; Jena Malone, 29; Michael Strahan, 42; Goldie Hawn, 68.

Happy Birthday: You will be receptive to new ideas and plans. Learn all you can and incorporate what you enjoy the most into your everyday routine. Finding pleasure in what you do and the people you associate with will make the difference between enjoying life and trying to get through each day. You have options and must choose what's best for you. Your numbers are 1, 8, 16, 22, 35, 41, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A change in your living arrangements must be made with caution. Protect your possessions from theft, loss or damage. A problem with someone you work with must be averted before it escalates into a problem that cannot be fixed. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get together with friends or colleagues who share your concerns and interests. Forming a partnership for either personal or professional reasons will complement what you are trying to accomplish. A romantic evening will leave you feeling optimistic. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be willing to take a chance, but before you jump in, question your motives as well as the reason why others are taking part. Uncertainty coupled with misinformation is apparent, and caution must be taken to avoid loss. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let your feelings be known. The more you share, the greater a response you will receive. Love is on the rise, along with closing deals,

making promises and getting what you want. Enjoy the moment and reach for the stars. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Wait and watch. It's not up to you to interfere with what others want to do. Go about your business and make personal changes that will help you excel in an area that suits your needs and future prospects. Put yourself first. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Strive for satisfaction and reaching your personal goals. Set your destination and include the people you enjoy spending time with most. Personal achievements will be reached, and self-improvement projects will make you feel good. A romantic encounter is in the stars. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't feel forced to make a decision if you are uncertain. Problems in your personal life due to overindulgence will lead to worry. Setting a budget or rules to live by will help you feel confident enough to make a choice. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make your way to the winner's circle. Trust in your ability and go full-tilt toward your goals. Ask and you will receive. Set plans for a special outing with someone you love and it will bring you closer together. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't meddle or exaggerate. Work on personal progress, not on trying to improve others. Change is good, but only if it benefits everyone involved. Proceed with caution and do your best to control your temper. Treat loved ones with respect. You cannot buy love. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Hone your skills and show everyone what you've got to offer. Your intense drive and desire to get things done will raise your profile, giving you a better chance to advance. Romance is heightened. Enjoy the one you love. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your money into something that shows growth potential. Avoid joint ventures or relying on hearsay for guidance in the right direction. Fact-finding, coupled with the wherewithal to adapt to change, will lead to victory. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are in control and can advance personally, professionally and financially if you trust your intuition. Contracts are favored, along with partnering with someone who has benefited you in the past. Romance is in the stars. *****

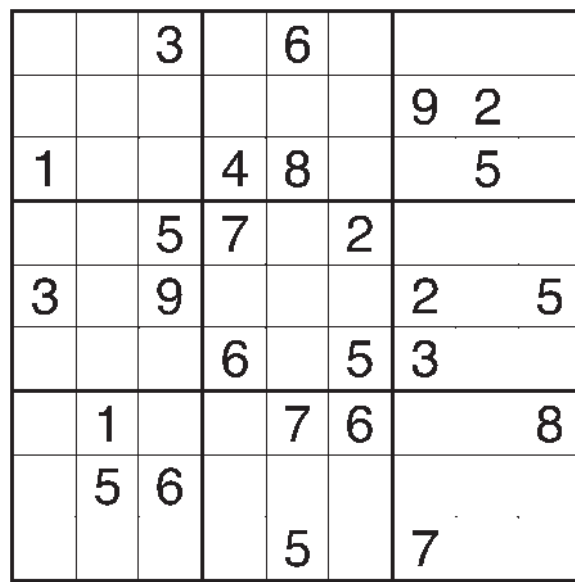
Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, caring and complex. You are a traditionalist.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



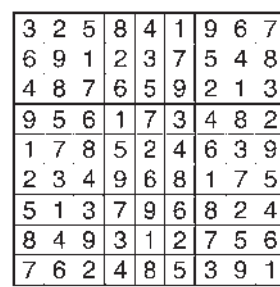
Difficulty Level ★★★

11/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KIDNEY SPECIALISTS

Solution: 13 letters



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Acute, Adult, Anemia, Bags, Beds, Biopsies, Bones, Catheters, Cells, Chronic, Clot, CT Scan, Dialysis, Diet, Disease, Edema, Educated, Enzyme, Epidemiology, Exam, Expert, Fluid, Glomerular, Kidney, Matched, Medical Degree, Monitor, Nephrons, Pediatrics, Prevention, Protein, Regulate, Renal, Stones, Strong, Team, Test, Transplant, Work
Yesterday's Answer: Memphis
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Heat win 4th straight, top Hawks, 104-88

MIAMI (AP)—For the Miami Heat, the third quarter was pretty much the whole story. Chris Bosh tumbled over some courtside seats on one end, and LeBron James apologized to a few fans during one particularly frustrating moment on the other.

In between, Mario Chalmers gave the Heat all the boost they needed.

Chalmers went on a personal 9-0 run in a 39-second span of the period, Bosh led all scorers with 19 points on 8-for-9 shooting, and the Heat went on to beat the Atlanta Hawks 104-88 on Tuesday night for their fourth straight victory.

Ray Allen scored 17, while Chalmers had 12 of his 14 in the third quarter for the Heat, who were without Dwyane Wade for the second time this season. James finished 13 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Heat (8-3).

Mike Scott scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Atlanta, which got 12 points apiece from Al Horford and Pero Antic. Kyle Korver made three 3-pointers for the Hawks, extending his streak to 84 consecutive games with at least one make from beyond the arc, five shy of matching Dana Barros' NBA record.

Miami's lead was 56-54 in the third quarter when Chalmers got hot—in a hurry. James Jones, who started in place of Wade, actually started what became a 15-2 run with a 3-pointer, and then Chalmers got going.

He cut across the lane for a reverse layup while getting fouled, then made a 3-pointer from the left wing after an Atlanta turnover. Jeff Teague missed a layup on the next Atlanta possession, James wound up throwing a chest pass from about 50 feet to Chalmers, who pulled up on the catch and connected on another 3-pointer from the same spot.

Just like, 56-54 became 68-54.

And when James added a three-point play with 4:30 left in the third, the lead was 15. Atlanta carved it back to 10 entering the fourth, but the Heat—with five reserves on the court—then showed off their depth.

Allen scored Miami's first 12 points of the fourth, Michael Beasley added the next four, and the Heat lead grew 94-78 with 5 minutes remaining, ensuring that the two-time defending NBA champions would keep their starters on the bench for the entirety of the final period.

Neither team led by more than six points in the first half, one where the Hawks held James scoreless for the first 16 minutes. James never really



Miami Heat guard Mario Chalmers (15) drives past Atlanta Hawks center Pero Antic (6) of Macedonia, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013 in Miami. The Heat defeated the Hawks 104-88.

got on a sustained roll offensively, though Miami didn't need him to get there, either. James scored 10 points in the second quarter, and only three in the rest of the game.

Even without Wade, and on a night Miami used its sixth starting lineup in 11 games, that didn't matter.

"We don't ever want it to seem usual," James said. "We want guys in the lineup but health is number one for our team, for sure. Like I continue to state, the best thing about it is when guys go down we've got depth and guys who can step in and play a starting role."

Atlanta was without forward Paul Millsap, who was not with the team in Miami because of right elbow tendinitis. Gustavo Ayon started in his place, the second time that's happened this season for the Hawks.

Rockets 109, Celtics 85

In Houston, Terrence Jones scored a career-high 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Houston over Boston for its third straight victory.

Jones was 10 of 12 from the

field as the Rockets shot 57 percent as a team, including 72 percent in the first half in building a 24-point halftime lead.

Patrick Beverley chipped in 16 points, James Harden added 15 points, five rebounds and five assists, and Dwight Howard had 10 points and 11 rebounds as the Rockets raced out to a 17-point, first-quarter lead and were never threatened.

Courtney Lee had 17 points, Avery Bradley added 11 and Jared Sullinger had 10 points and nine rebounds off the bench for Boston, which lost its fourth in a row.

Pistons 92, Knicks 86

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rodney Stuckey scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half as Detroit beat New York for the first time in eight meetings.

Josh Smith added 19 points for the Pistons, who led 71-63 after three quarters and scored the first seven points of the fourth. New York cut the lead to four in the final minute, but the Knicks could never reduce the deficit to one possession.

Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 25 points.

Greg Monroe had 16 points and 11 rebounds for Detroit, and Andre Drummond added 13 points and 11 boards.

Wizards 104, Timberwolves 100

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 25 points, and John Wall added 14 points and equalled his career high with

16 assists as Washington beat Minnesota to end a four-game losing streak.

Martel Webster's 3-pointer with 42 seconds to play gave the Wizards a 100-98 lead. Beal added two free throws with 12.9 seconds left to make it 102-98.

Webster had 17 points, including five 3-pointers.

Kevin Love led the Timberwolves with 25 points and 11 rebounds, and Kevin Martin, who was averaging 24.4 points, was held to 11.

Kings 107, Suns 104

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins had 27 points and 12 rebounds, helping Sacramento rally past Phoenix.

Rookie Ben McLemore had a season-high 19 points, Isaiah Thomas also scored 19, Greivis Vasquez added 11 and Patrick Patterson 10 for the Kings, who had lost seven of their previous eight. Sacramento scored the game's final 10 points in a run that was aided by three straight Phoenix turnovers in the closing minutes.

Gerald Green scored 23 points and Marcus Morris had 19 for the Suns, who lost their third straight. Phoenix's five losses this season have been by a total of 16 points. Channing Frye added 17 points and nine rebounds, and Archie Goodwin scored 16 points.

Morris missed a corner 3-pointer and Cousins grabbed the rebound and made 1 of 2 free throws with just under a second left to preserve the Kings' victory.

Kobe Bryant goes through 2nd practice with Lakers

EL SEGUNDO, Calif.

(AP)—Kobe Bryant is back in practice with the Los Angeles Lakers, and even the five-time NBA champion gets a charge out of getting back to work.

Bryant participated in his second full workout with the Lakers at their training complex on Tuesday. He still isn't sure when he'll be back in uniform, but he's grateful to take the next step in his recovery from a torn Achilles tendon.

"It's always a much greater appreciation for it," Bryant said, his forehead beaded with post-practice sweat. "You understand the mortality that comes with being on that doorstep. There's always a sense of enjoyment when you come back. ... Put the jersey on, you walk out in practice, and felt like it was '97 again and I was getting my first start as a pro."

Bryant isn't setting a return date, but acknowledged he could see himself returning to the Lakers later this month. Coach Mike D'Antoni said Bryant will return whenever

he says he's ready, although the Lakers' next game against Golden State on Friday is very unlikely.

The fourth-leading scorer in NBA history hasn't played since tearing his Achilles tendon in a game against Golden State in April. He did several weeks of conditioning work before returning to practice last Saturday for a brief workout.

Bryant did drills and 5-on-5 play with the Lakers on Tuesday. He says he's "pleasantly surprised" by how good he felt afterward.

"I just went out there and just played," Bryant said. "Just tried to do what I normally do and figure some things out about my game, what can I do and what can't I do at this stage. Just try to figure out the route."

Bryant says he could adjust his game and contribute something to the Lakers right now, but he wants to make sure he's ready to play for the long haul when he returns for his 18th NBA season.

"It's definitely something where you're kind of champing

at the bit a little bit, but we've come so far," he said. "I want to make sure, we all do, when you step out there you're ready to go the long haul, and it's not something that continues on. ... You just have to get stronger, but I could adjust my game and play at a pretty high level right now."

Bryant's self-evaluation isn't about praising his strengths, such as his better-than-expected upper-body strength, but finding his weaknesses. He's also withholding judgment until he figures out how his body responds Wednesday morning.

"You've got to be honest with yourself, and if you have those limitations, then you've got to figure out a way to be effective around those," Bryant said. "You can't be stubborn about that. If there are certain things that I used to do that I can't do now. I won't try to do them. I've got to figure out another way."

Bryant's teammates were uniformly impressed with his condition and mobility in his first workouts back from a serious injury. D'Antoni allows

Bryant and trainer Gary Vitti to plot the superstar's comeback pace, and the coach didn't encourage his players to go easy on Bryant.

"They had better beat him up while they can, because when he gets better, they won't be able to," D'Antoni said. "I'm sure they'll take their shots early. ... He's going to be a little rusty. He's going to make mistakes. But if he feels good, and when he feels like, 'You know what? I can do this,' then that's what he should do, and he's the only one that can (say) that."

During his recovery, Bryant has spent plenty of time with Steve Nash, the 39-year-old point guard currently sidelined with the latest in a series of injuries. Nash is out for at least another week with nerve root irritation, a back problem stemming from a broken leg last season.

Bryant and Nash intend to be back in the Lakers' lineup together soon. Los Angeles is off to a 5-7 start in Bryant's absence and with little help from Nash.

France, Portugal reach World Cup

By **STEVE DOUGLAS**
AP SPORTS WRITER

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a dazzling hat trick to lift Portugal into next year's World Cup at the expense of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's Sweden, and France came back in remarkable fashion to overtake Ukraine for a berth in the 32-nation field for next year's tournament in Brazil.

Iceland failed to become the least populous nation to reach soccer's top tournament, losing to Croatia on a thrilling final night of European qualifying.

Greece, Ghana and Algeria also earned berths, and Mexico took a 5-1 lead into the second leg of its playoff against New Zealand.

The final berth will be determined Wednesday night, when Uruguay defends a 5-0 advantage against Jordan. The draw is Dec. 6 at Bahia, Brazil.

Ronaldo's second international hat trick gave Portugal a 3-2 win at Stockholm and a 4-2 aggregate victory.

"It felt complicated for a moment after they scored," Ronaldo said. "We suffered a little bit and then, well, we scored two more goals."

Ronaldo, who scored in Portugal's 1-0 home win last Friday, scored off a pass Joao Moutinho in the 50th minute.

The 32-year-old Ibrahimovic tied the score in the 68th and put the hosts ahead 2-1 with a free kick three minutes later, leaving Sweden trailing on away goals. Goals by Ronaldo in the 77th and 79th minutes sealed the home-and-home, total-goals series for Portugal, which will be going to its fourth straight World Cup.

Sweden and Ibrahimovic will miss soccer's top tournament for the second straight time.

"Of course I'm disappointed. I wanted to play the World Cup," Ibrahimovic said. "We did our best. Unfortunately, we played against a better team—better than us, no doubt."

It was the 26th professional hat trick for Ronaldo, who has 23 for Real Madrid and one for Manchester United. His first three-goal game for Portugal was Sept. 6 at Northern Ireland.

"It just hurts right now," Sweden coach Erik Hamren said. "It is a dream, an ambition that has died. It's hurting for everyone."

France overturned a two-goal deficit from the first leg and beat Ukraine 3-0 on goals by Mamadou Sakho and Karim Benzema followed by a 72nd-minute own goal by Oleg Gusev.

Les Bleus, the 1998 world champion, played with a man advantage after Yevhen Khacheridi was given a red card



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring the 2-3 goal during the World Cup 2014 qualifying playoff second leg soccer match between Sweden and Portugal at Friends Arena in Stockholm, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013.

for fouling Franck Ribery in the 47th minute.

Sakho began the comeback in the 22nd minute with his first international goal, and Benzema tied the home-and-home, total-goals series in the 34th with his third goal in his last four matches for France.

France went ahead in Paris when Gusev, who entered in the 64th minute, turned in a cross under pressure from Sakho. Les Bleus qualified for their 10th straight major tournament.

"It's the magic of football. Four days ago we were bad, very bad," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "I've experienced some great moments but this one is special."

At Zagreb, Croatia won 2-0 following a 0-0 tie at Iceland last week. Dario Mandzukic scored in the 22nd minute, then was given a red card nine minutes later for a studs-up tackle against Johann Gudmundsson. Mandzukic's goal came after Ivan Rakitic's cross was deflected into the penalty area by Ivan Perisic.

Darijo Srna added a goal in the 47th for Croatia, which won the home-and-home, total-goals series 2-0 and qualified for its fourth World Cup since becoming an independent state in 1991.

Iceland has a population of about 320,000.

"Croatia deserved to win," Iceland defender Ragnar Sigurdsson said. "It was the better team, especially today, and there is no doubt it deserves to go to

Brazil. We felt it might go better for us after Mandzukic was sent off, but we did not get any space on the pitch."

Greece reached its second straight World Cup and third overall, beating Romania on 4-2 aggregate with a 1-1 draw.

Kostas Mitroglou, who scored twice last Friday at Piraeus, gave Greece the lead in the 23rd minute. Romania tied the score in the 55th minute when a botched Greek clearance led to an own goal by Vas-

silis Torosidis.

In Cairo, Ghana qualified for its third straight World Cup, defeating Egypt on 7-3 aggregate with a 2-1 loss that knocked out the Pharaohs and American coach Bob Bradley. Trailing 6-1 from the first leg last month, Egypt took a 2-0 lead on goals by Amr Zaki in the 25th minute and Gedo in the 84th. Kevin Prince-Boateng scored for Ghana on a counterattack in the 89th.

Egypt has not qualified for the World Cup since 1990, and

Bradley said he would leave if his team didn't qualify. Ghana also eliminated Bradley's U.S. team in the second round of the 2010 tournament.

Algeria earned Africa's last berth, beating Burkina Faso 1-0 for a 3-3 aggregate tie and a victory on away goals. Madjid Bougherra scored off a scramble in the 49th minute.

Marc Janko scored in the 33rd minute after lax defensive marking, giving Austria a 1-0 exhibition win over the United

States in Vienna. Hungarian referee Istan Vad failed to allow a goal for the United States when Geoff Cameron's header off Michael Bradley's corner kick deflected off an arm of Marko Arnautovic and appeared to cross the goal line in the 17th minute before it was swatted away by goalkeeper Robert Almer.

Defending champion Spain endured a miserable return to the scene of its World Cup triumph in 2010, losing an exhibition 1-0 to South Africa at FNB Stadium, formerly known as Soccer City.

Per Mertesacker scored on a header off Toni Kroos' cross that gave Germany a 1-0 exhibition victory that sent England to consecutive home losses for the first time in 36 years. England, beaten 2-0 by Chile on Friday, had not lost consecutive matches at Wembley since defeats to Wales and Scotland in 1977.

Hulk and Robinho scored to lift Brazil to a 2-1 victory over Chile in a soccer friendly in Toronto, a game that was both part of World Cup preparations and a spirited match between two South American teams.

Hulk scored in the 14th minute, the goal coming after Oscar intercepted a pass out of Chile's backfield. Oscar sent a long cross to Hulk, who launched a left-footed shot past goalkeeper Claudio Bravo.

Robinho gave the Brazilians the lead in the 80th minute when he headed in a perfectly placed goalmouth cross from Maicon.

Eduardo Vargas scored Chile's goal in the 71st minute, taking a short pass from Jean Beausejour and launching a long shot that tucked just inside the left corner, catching Brazilian goalkeeper Julio Cesar flat-footed.

Levine testifies he didn't conspire against A-Rod

NEW YORK (AP)—Yankees President Randy Levine testified at Alex Rodriguez's grievance hearing Tuesday and denied conspiring with Major League Baseball on the 211-game suspension given to the New York third baseman last summer.

On the 10th day of the hearing, which started in September, Levine was asked a series of questions by Rodriguez lawyer Joseph Tacopina, according to a person with knowledge of the proceeding. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the proceedings are confidential.

The person said Levine testified for 10-15 minutes and denied having any personal gain from Rodriguez's suspension or the Yankees falling under the luxury tax threshold; and of having an agreement to receive a commission of any money the team saved because of the ban.

Levine also denied discussing Rodriguez's discipline with Major League Baseball or Commissioner Bud Selig; and telling Rodriguez surgeon Dr. Bryan

Kelly or anyone else that he wanted the player off the field, the person said.

The person also said Levine testified he may have jokingly used the phrase "is he off the juice?" when talking with Rodriguez about other players who weren't performing. Levine testified he had no exact recollection.

The hearing resumed Monday before arbitrator Fredric Horowitz, who also heard the case from Sept. 30-Oct. 3 and Oct. 15-18.

Howard Gans, a lawyer for MLB, said in papers filed in federal court that Horowitz will hear the case daily through Nov. 26 rather than the original plan to recess after Friday and resume Dec. 16.

MLB said U.S. District Judge Edgardo Ramos in Manhattan issued an order Tuesday compelling Michael Sitrick, head of the public relations firm Sitrick & Co., to comply with a Sept. 19 subpoena issued by Horowitz to appear at the arbitration

and to provide documents. Sitrick & Co. worked on Rodriguez's behalf earlier this year.

In papers filed in New York Supreme Court on Oct. 29, MLB alleged Sitrick & Co. had provided records from Bosch to Yahoo Sports, which published a story Feb. 5 saying the name of 2011 NL MVP Ryan Braun appeared in records of Biogenesis of America, the Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs.

MLB said in the court papers it believed the documents had been "provided to Sitrick & Co. by Rodriguez or others acting on his behalf." Miami New Times had reported Jan. 29 that Rodriguez bought human growth hormone and other performance-enhancing substances from Biogenesis during 2009-12.

Sitrick's lawyers, who had the matter removed to federal court, did not respond to an email seeking comment on Ra-

mos' order, which MLB said was read from the bench.

Braun agreed July 22 to a season-ending 65-game suspension. Rodriguez was suspended on Aug. 5 for alleged violations of the sport's drug agreement and labor contract, and the players' union filed the grievance to overturn the penalty. It remains unclear whether Rodriguez will testify; he continued to play while contesting the penalty.

The three-time AL MVP said four years ago he used PEDs while with the Texas Rangers from 2001-03, but has denied using them since. At the time of his suspension, MLB said the penalty was for "use and possession of numerous forms of prohibited performance-enhancing substances, including testosterone and human growth hormone over the course of multiple years" and for "engaging in a course of conduct intended to obstruct and frustrate the office of the commissioner's investigation."



Pacquiao, Rios camps clash



A scuffle breaks out between the coaching staffs of Manny Pacquiao and Brandon Rios when Freddie Roach approached Pacquiao's former conditioning coach Alex Ariza, who is now with Rios, at the fighters' training camp in Macau.

By KIERAN MULVANEY
ESPN.COM

MACAU—Tensions between the camps of Manny Pacquiao and Brandon Rios erupted into a physical altercation Wednesday morning at The Venetian Macao, site of Saturday night's clash between the fighters.

The problems began when

Natural Mystic outlasts Maplas in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Natural Mystic eked out an 83-82 overtime win against Maplas in the second game of the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Ben Lisua canned the winning basket, drilling a triple in the last 30 seconds of the extension period. Before Lisua's back-breaking trey, Dan Mateo made two free throws to put Maplas on top for the last time. Earlier in regulation, Rommel Usi also connected on a triple to send the game into overtime, but Maplas failed to prevail in the extended match after missing on its final attempt in the closing seconds of the extra period.

Lisua top-scored for Natural Mystic (4-2) with his 17 points, while Allison Kaipat added 17, including 4 points in overtime. Jojo Ulloa also finished in twin digits with his 15 markers and fired one triple in the fourth. Dominic Reyes was the fourth Natural Mystic player to score in the extension.

As for the winless Maplas (0-4), only Rommel Usi drilled more than two field goals for the team in overtime. He hit two more triples to start the extension, while Dexter Tenorio made an and-1 play before Mateo logged the last 2 points from the foul line.

With its loss, Maplas is in danger of not making it to the playoffs. Only the Top 6 teams in Pool B will advance to the second round and Maplas is at the bottom of the eight-team field.

Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach approached Rios trainer Robert Garcia in a gym area beneath the Venetian Theatre that the two camps are sharing during fight week. Rios is scheduled to work out in the area between 9 and 11 a.m. each day, with Pacquiao's workout slated for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NMI Contractor 68, Fong's Bakery 55

In Pool A, NMI Contractor kept its playoffs hope alive after beating Fong's Bakery.

NMI Contractor snapped its four-game losing skid and improved to a 2-4 record for seventh place in the team standings. Fong's Bakery has a better record at 3-2 and is at the top half of the field.

NMI Contractor held Fong's Bakery to no more than 13 points in each of the first three quarters to take control of the match en route to the 13-point victory.

Ahead by only 7 at the break, 33-26, after limiting Fong's to 13 points each in the first and second periods, NMI Contractor broke the game wide open in the third with a 23-10 scoring binge. Leo Galarse led the breakaway, drilling 8 of his 10 points in the third, including two triples.

First Game

NMI Contractor 68 – Ogu-moro 21, Brennan 17, Inos 11, Galarse 10, Echavez 2, Ritual 2.

Fong's Bakery 55 – Guntar 12, Samson 10, Reyes 8, Bahillo 7, Isip 6, Ajoste 3, Barrios 2, Bu-niag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-13, 33-26, 56-36, 68-55.

Second Game

Natural Mystic 83 – Lisua 17, Kaipat 15, Ullos 15, reyes 9, Guerrero 8, Camacho 2, Cangco 2.

Maplas 82 – Mateo 15, M. Usi 14, R. Usi 11, Tenorio 9, Lauron 8, Devero 7, Cortez 2, Aniciete 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 39-37, 58-58, 71-71, 83-81.

Video of the incident shows Roach asking Garcia to leave and apparently calling him a "piece of s---." "Don't call me

a piece of s---," Garcia countered. Alex Ariza, Rios' strength and conditioning coach, who previously worked for Roach and Pacquiao, shouted at Roach to leave, and Roach shouted back at Ariza to "make me." After some verbal back-and-forth, Roach stepped forward. Ariza kicked Roach in the stomach, and when one of Rios' team began shouting at Roach, Pacquiao's trainer called him a "Mexican m-----f-----," prompting a near-brawl that required the intervention of security.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	5	7	.417	—
Toronto	4	7	.364	½
Boston	4	8	.333	1
New York	3	7	.300	1
Brooklyn	3	7	.300	1
Southeast Division				
Miami	8	3	.727	—
Atlanta	6	5	.545	2
Charlotte	5	6	.455	3
Orlando	4	6	.400	3½
Washington	3	7	.300	4½
Central Division				
Indiana	9	1	.900	—
Chicago	6	3	.667	2½
Detroit	4	6	.400	5
Cleveland	4	7	.364	5½
Milwaukee	2	7	.222	6½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	9	1	.900	—
Houston	8	4	.667	2
Dallas	7	4	.636	2½
Memphis	6	5	.545	3½
New Orleans	4	6	.400	5
Northwest Division				
Portland	9	2	.818	—
Oklahoma City	7	3	.700	1½
Minnesota	7	5	.583	2½
Denver	4	6	.400	4½
Utah	1	11	.083	8½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	8	3	.727	—
L.A. Clippers	7	4	.636	1
Phoenix	5	5	.500	2½
L.A. Lakers	5	7	.417	3½
Sacramento	3	7	.300	4½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

According to Garcia, the conflict arose as a result of Rios staying late to appear on ESPN's "SportsCenter" during Pacquiao's scheduled gym time.

"So we say, OK, we're going to go 15, 20 minutes over time [at the gym]," Garcia told reporters afterward. "[Roach]

could have waited. His fighter wasn't even here. He could have been wrapping his hands. I don't care. He just wanted to start a fight. He's in trouble. He's nervous."

"Our time is at 11 each day," Roach told ESPN's Bernardo Osuna. "I waited until five past

11 upstairs, and I came down, and Brandon was jumping rope. I waited until he had finished, and I went up to Robert Garcia and said, 'Our time is at 11.' Ariza started making fun of my Parkinson's, and I said, 'What's your problem?' and he kicked me and ran away."

BELING

From Page 28

Saturday and kept his momentum in the title match against Race.

The singles championship was Beling's third first place finish in this year's tournament alone, as he also won in the men's open doubles (with Race) and mixed open doubles (with Thea Minor).

Joining Beling in the men's

singles winners circle were Gary Ramsey and Michael Ren.

Ramsey topped the men's over 40 singles after beating Fr. Ryan Jimenez, 6-4, 6-3, and Chang Wan Jang, 6-3, 6-2. Jimenez took the runner-up honors after sweeping Jang in the round-robin tournament, 7-5, 6-2.

The men's 4.0 singles also had a round-robin format with Michael Ren winning against two other players. Ren downed Steven Beyer, 6-2, 6-1, and

outlasted Luther Lizama, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, to clinch the division crown. Lizama gained the second place plaque after defeating Beyer, 6-0, 6-2.

Meanwhile, in the men's 3.0 doubles finals, junior player Robbie Schorr and J.R. Jacinto slipped past K. Shintani and Alberto Ventura in three sets. Schorr and Jacinto dropped the opening set, 2-6, but stole the championship after sweeping the last two, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2.

SHAKIR

From Page 28

mer's comeback attempt. Ernie Moises led Shakir Realty's hot shooting, scoring 36 big points, including 10 in the fourth. He drilled five triples.

Joselino Canoy also waxed hot from downtown, converting four and finishing with 19 points. He and Moises alternately hit baskets for Shakir Realty to out-gun D&Q Degree.

Erika's Catering 91, PIC 75

In the second game, Erika's Catering also notched a double-digit winning margin against Pacific Islands Club.

The win improved Erika's record to 5-2, while PIC dropped to a 1-6 slate, pending the results of its game against Blue Haus

last Tuesday night.

PIC caught Erika's Catering off guard in the opening canto, taking a 20-15 lead, but the San Antonio-based team failed to keep its momentum in the remaining quarters and absorbed its sixth loss of the season.

Erika's Catering recovered right in the second quarter after drawing points from multiple players. Jun Tabora scored 8 in the second canto and three of his teammates added at least 4 points apiece, as Erika's grabbed the driver's seat at halftime, 39-31. PIC lost the upper hand after making only 11 points and three field goals in the second period and never regained the lead in the final half, as Erika's was steady on offense.

Tabora paced Erika's with his 32 points, while Melvin Villarin and Rodney Catalla added 18

and 15, respectively. Jun Alipio also finished in twin digits with his 14, while James Abuy led PIC with his 22 markers.

First Game

Erika's Catering 91 – Tabora 32, Villarin 18, Catalla 15, Alipio 14, Zapata 7, Barrozo 2.

PIC 75 – Abuy 22, Sublemente 15, Ballesteros 13, Tolentino 13, Bartolo 4, Hernandez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-20, 39-31, 63-51, 91-75.

Second Game

Shakir Realty 117 – Moises 36, Canoy 19, Paraiso 15, Surima 12, Conti 7, Guirey 4, Sevilla 4.

D&Q Degree 95 – Tobias 20, Ocampo 19, Garcia 13, Rabago 12, Pablo 10, Drilon 8, de la Torre 5, Valdez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 31-30, 54-51, 82-71, 117-95.

THUNDERCATS

From Page 28

made it a 3-0 count for the Thundercats with his goal 20 minutes later, while the Women's National Team finally answered, courtesy of Alexa Vergara's goal in the 70th minute. The Thundercats went on to cap their easy win with a goal from Frank Jeon just one minute before the match ended.

In the other game that featured Division 2 squads, Sun Palace beat Shirley's FC, 3-1.

Ho Jin Woo lifted Sun Palace to victory after hitting two goals. He scored in the 41st to tie the match after Krish Kim put Shirley's FC in the driver's seat early with a goal in the fourth minute. Woo then broke the deadlock in the 58th minute with another goal, while Ming Luen Chan canned the insurance sixth minutes before the game wrapped up.

Inter Godfather's 4, Kanoa FC 0

Games in the M-League continued last Sunday with Inter Godfather's blanking Kanoa FC in the curtain-raiser.

Masatoshi Otsuka stood up

in Inter Godfather's win after connecting on a pair of goals. Peter Loken and Chris Nelson drilled the two other goals for Inter Godfather's. Loken scored off a penalty shot in the second minute, while Otsuka got his first goal in the 20th. Otsuka also scored five minutes into the second half, while Nelson made it to the board in the 79th minute.

Wild Bill's 2, Tan Holdings FC 0

In the second game, Wild Bill's also shut out Tan Holdings FC.

Wild Bill's both goals came from Tanapon Unsa. Neither teams found the back of the net in the first half before Unsa finally eluded his defenders and hit his target in the 49th minute. Tan Holdings continued to search for the elusive goal, while Wild Bill's took a while before getting its second goal, as Unsa notched scored anew in the 80th.

MP United 5, Matansa FC 0

MP United recorded the third shutout win last Sunday, whipping Matansa FC.

MP United posted all goals in the first half, as it toyed around

the defense of Matansa FC.

Timothy Tawanpiy starred in MP United's victory with his hat-trick. He fired back-to-back goals for MP United, scoring in the fifth and 30th. MP United's last three goals then came in a span of five minutes with Jireh Yobech hitting one in the 31st, Jehn Joyner also connecting two minutes later, and Tawanpiy completing the hat-trick in the 35th.

KFAS 4, Paire FC 2

In the last game of the weekend, Korean Football Association on Saipan edged Paire.

KFAS got goals from four different players, while Paire's pair all came from Ajani Burrell. Ji Sung Cha opened the scoring for KFAS with his goal in the fourth minute, while Jun Woo Lee lifted the team to a 2-0 lead at the break with a goal in the 28th. Scott Kim made it a 3-0 advantage for KFAS, as he scored in the first minute of the second half, while Paire threatened a comeback behind Burrell's two straight goals (61st and 64th). However, Brian Lee came to KFAS' rescue and dropped an important goal four minutes before the match concluded.

18th Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Seniors Flight champion Toshiyuki Mori, center, poses with Hyatt Regency Saipan's Blake Carothers, right, and Ben Babauta Jr. during the awards ceremony for the 18th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic at



Seniors Flight runner-up Federico Flores shows his prize package.



Ladies Flight champion Shiori Onoue is all smiles after getting her prize.



A Flight runner-up Sean Lee shows his prize package.



Junior golfer Yoon Jung Kim takes the runner-up prize package in the Ladies Flight.



From left, B Flight runner-up Kyu Yeon Kim poses with Hyatt Regency Saipan's Ben Babauta Jr. and Blake Carothers.



A Flight third placer Chae Son Yi, center, poses for a photo.



B Flight champion Sung Nam Park shows his prize package.



Steve Jang watches his shot at the hole-in-one contest held during the awards ceremony.



Marcel McKenzie gets ready to swing for a hole-in-one shot.



Heat win 4th
straight, top
Hawks, 104-88

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



France, Portugal
reach World Cup

PAGE 25

28 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Beling beats Race in battle of coaches

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Luke Beling won his debut in the 5th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic 2013, prevailing against Jeff Race in a battle of coaches in the men's open singles title game played last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Beling, who teaches at Whispering Palms School and coaches players at the Fiesta courts, swept Race in the finals, 6-0, 6-0. The two coaches were the Top 2 players in the nine-man field with Race getting a bye in the upper half of the bracket and recording two wins to march into the finals. The CNMI mentor bagged his first win against junior player Amami Sakano, 6-0, 6-1, to advance to the semifinals. Sakano arranged a quarterfinal duel against Race, following a 6-3, 6-1 triumph versus Lauro Lim.



pitted against Tommy Choi, a 6-4, 6-4 winner against Dong Min Lee, and the former also swept the junior player, 7-5, 6-1, to take the finals berth in the top half of the bracket.

In the bottom half, Beling also received a bye in the opening round before blanking Seiya Eda in the quarterfinals, 6-0, 6-0, and forcing a semis duel against Moris Villanueva, who eliminated former CNMI junior player Ralph Buenaventura, 7-5, 6-1. Beling went on to foil Villanueva's upset bid, cruising to a 6-2, 6-1 victory last

See BELING on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Top 3 finishers in the men's open singles, from left, runner-up Jeff Race, third placer Moris Villanueva, and champion Luke Beling pose for a photo during the awards ceremony for the 5th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Shakir Realty snaps skid in UFO Masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shakir Realty is back into the win column, following a 117-95 whipping of D&Q Degree in the second game in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Shakir won its opening game (against Pacific Islands Club) but went on to drop its next five games before recovering against D&Q Degree and avenging its loss (53-72) to the latter in the first round.

In their second round duel, Shakir Realty engaged D&Q Degree in a shootout and the former won, canning 11 triples against the seven of its foe. Shakir Realty scored 30-plus points in two quarters, going all out in the final canto after exploding for 35 points.

D&Q Degree still faced a manageable deficit at the end of the third, 71-82, before Shakir Realty burned the hoops in the payoff canto to foil the for-

See SHAKIR on Page 26

Thundercats, Sun Palace top foes



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Thundercats' Don Cabrera throws-in during the second half of their game against Sun Palace in the M-League last night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Division 2 teams Thundercats and Sun Palace downed separate opponents in the M-League last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The Thundercats was pitted against the Women's National Team on Nov. 13 and cruised to a 4-1 victory after drawing goals

from four different players.

Don Cabrera nailed the first and lone goal for the Thundercats in the first half, scoring in the 31st minute. Then in the second half, the Thundercats managed to light up the scoreboard early with Makani Gramlich earning his first and only goal in the opening minutes of the final canto. Angelo Guevarra

See THUNDERCATS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Erika's Catering's Melvin Villarin drives to the baseline against Pacific Islands Club's Carlos Ballesteros during the third quarter of their game in the UFO Masters caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

